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W. H. T.

LETTERS,
HISTORICAL AND BOTANICAL;
RELATING CHIEFLY TO PLACES IN
THE VALE OF TEIGN,
AND PARTICULARLY TO
CHUDLEIGH, LUSTLEIGH, CANONTEIGN,
AND BOVEY-TRACEY.
BY
DR. FRASER HALLE,
Author of "Exact Philosophy," "Critical Letters," &c.
WITH SOME GEOLOGIC NOTICES,
BY DR. CROKER,
OF BOVEY-TRACEY.

LONDON:
HOULSTON AND STONEMAN.
CHUDLEIGH: CROOK. EXETER: DRAYTON, AND PETHERICK.
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.
1851.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.]

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PREFACE.

The observations in the concluding letter of this series have shortened the preface. The publication of these letters was occasioned by a local want, felt by the author himself, whilst rambling amidst the beautiful uplands to which they relate. He did anticipate that he would be obliged to draw largely for historic matter from sources but indirectly connected with the family history of the locality; and was considerably surprised by the amount of local information and intelligence, of which a little activity has enabled him to avail himself. This has been carefully acknowledged. He is besides much indebted to one of his metropolitan correspondents, W. H. Ashley Esq., M. D. &c. one of the Fellows of the Royal Botanic Society, for valuable assistance in identifying the plants of the district. The botanical skill of this gentleman is as remarkable as his untiring courtesy. The curious memorials of Elizabethan times, obtained from the Chudleigh parish-chest, have taken up the space which was at first allotted to some of the more extraordinary and but little known portions of the romance of history; with which the work was to have been enlivened, for the benefit of those to whom the details of natural science are at present uninteresting. These will be published subsequently, with the remaining geologic and

botanical notices. The chief object of the work, however, is the extension of the study of natural science. The interest of historic details, however lively in the first instance, soon fades in the presence of eyes familiar with the spots with which they are associated. But the beautiful expressions of the fair face of nature—like those even of mortal features, fair and intelligent—are ever enlivening and engaging to mental activity, and to undimmed, because intelligent, eyes. Natural science creates an interest to which new life is added every morning during the fairest portion of the year. This unfading interest however is a luxury not easily won. The full fruition of the loveliest natural picture, can only be realized by those who have gone through the toil of mastering its details. To relieve the botanical description in the letters of what is popularly called, its dryness, it will frequently be found in company with much information that is both novel and useful. This descriptive knowledge is graven on the threshold, it is true, of the temple of science, but no one may pass therein who cannot decipher its characters. It consists of nothing less than those primary Baconian facts which are the elements of the profoundest science, and natural science is closely linked to the Divine "Archetype of all that is fair and lovely." Science is dry to those only who have no intellectual life-springs. Even of the Divine—the Arch-Beautiful—the lack-lustre mind says, in his secret soul,—“He hath no Beauty that we should desire him.”

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LETTERS

HISTORICAL AND BOTANICAL.

LETTER I.

NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CHUDLEIGH.

“ Lovely Devonian land of flowers and songs. ”

CARRINGTON.

My dear M—r.

It is quite fitting that a letter to you should begin, as this does, before one of your own oil-pictured vistas of dark foliage, round-tower, and river-flood, and in the presence of a group of forget-me-nots. †

† The only specimens of these azure-eyed remembrancers (*Myosotis Palustris*) that I have yet met with in the neighbourhood of Chudleigh, grow in a brooklet on the right, just past Chudleigh-Knighton. They are, however, by no means so fine as those on Thames' side or at Colne Bridge; a vaseful of which will give out at night a very sensible delicate perfume

A

Though the ruling spirit of my present hour is an Oread and that of the Pixy family, rather than of her taller Hellenic kin, yet, as I am writing to a love-labourer in the realms of Art, I shall not give myself exclusively to this faery influence, but will frequently endeavour to stray, as you will find, in company with the things and forms of the Historic Past.

To one who, like myself, has just been rambling about the level grassy meads of Buckingham, Berks and Oxfordshire, and who becomes speedily enamoured of the gentler attractions of lovely hills and valleys of a not lofty order, the picture-land of Chudleigh presents a contrast that is peculiarly captivating. Seated on the top of the Round Tower of Windsor Castle, we have before us an apparently boundless expanse of "lawns" not "upland"; but to those who have often admired the profusion of upland beauty from the one solitary bastion of the Pixies' Castle, or what is called, *par excellence*, Chudleigh Rock, a vast plain there would be about as great a marvel as a hill even of Devonian altitude would be at Wraysbury or Caversham.

The loveliness of the scenery in this "delightful land" is enriched by much of the natural romance of grey marble heads and fronts of old wrinkled rocks; in one spot rising superbly aloft, like a Druidical tower † in ruins,

† Tor, according to Lye and Bosworth, is Anglo-Saxon for tower.

from the bosom of piles on piles of young, many-tinted green foliage.

At the foot of this rocky pile a cataract—of which Polwhele has given an Engraving †—dashes over large blocks of limestone through a beautiful glen thickly canopied by Ash, Oak, Elm, Beech and other trees.

In the folk-lore of this county Chudleigh Rock is said to have been one of the abodes of the old Elfin people of Devon, as I shall notice when I have to describe the spot particularly. It might, therefore, be more appropriately called, the Rock of the Pixies.

On the side opposite to the road it is evident that some former utilitarian disposition has robbed it of every claim which it might once have had, on this side also, to pictorial attraction.

All the hills in the neighbourhood are of comparatively gentle elevation and of much variety in form and clothing. Uplands of this order necessarily present features much more attractive and engaging than do hills of a greater unbroken amplitude. Where a hedge-gap or field-gate permits the eye to luxuriate over many varieties of valley and dingle, we necessarily feel more exhilarated under the spell of a bevy of natural beauties than we should if one or two mountainous uplands were to monopolize the whole space.

† Traditions and Recollections I vol. 343.

Chudleigh is rich in slopes cultivated and otherwise, some, at Ugbrook and Trusham Vale, so vividly green and heart refreshing, that they seem formed for the gambols of "loves fairies—"

" Daughters, bird-voiced, but more than cygnets fair,
Learning and lispings joy—and sons with wreathed hair."

I have made acquaintance with others so soft—one mossy hill-top of Ugbrook in particular—that they would serve for the cheek of love to repose upon. It was well remarked to me that a more interesting pictorial effect could not often be witnessed than was presented one summer evening by the singularly soft and light velvet greensward of the uplands of Trusham Valley, to a spectator on the opposite furze-clad hills. There is many a bank of wild thyme too that might have very worthily been the subject of the song of Devon faery kings.

The most beautifully clothed hills that I have seen in the neighbourhood are two on the Teign at Crocombe Bridge. In the month of May and towards the end of April they add considerably to the beauty of a lovely picture-spot, where, during the early spring, the Daffodil and White Violet (*Viola Lactea*) grow in profusion; the latter on the high banks near the Mill. I have however not yet seen any hills in the neighbourhood like those of Babbi-combe; to which the attribute golden seems peculiarly to belong. These hills which are about fourteen miles distant,

are covered at the beginning of spring with furze-bloom and cowslips. On these golden hills of Devon, with the sea before me, and all things brimful of spring sunshine, I have felt as if a second life had been superadded to my existence.

The cowslip is a novelty in our fields. It is rarely seen except near a residence, where, of course, we cannot regard it as a "wilding of Nature." Its sister, however, the primrose, "a smile amid gloom," abounds. Primroses crowd the hedge-banks in company with sky-blue speedwells, while the lesser celandine † with its disc of yellow satin rays, another of the stars of earth, shines in the fields.

"Spake full well in language quaint and olden,
One who dwelleth by the castled Rhine,
When he called the flowers so blue and golden,
Stars which in Earth's firmament do shine."

The scented blue violet is remarkably rare here, but the scentless one (*Viola Canina*) is common.

Soon after the primrose and violet, the "early purple Orchis" appears, and adds a rarer grace to the meads and hedge-banks. At the entrance of Chudleigh, on the right from the Newton and Ashburton Road, is Lewell. Lewell Mead is one of the loveliest of green spots, and, during the end of May and the beginning of June, the purple

† *Ranunculus Ficaria*. The latter term is significant of what was absurdly believed to be its medical use in past times.

blooms of the *Palmate Orchis* (*Orchis Maculata*) render it one of the most richly embroidered meads in Britain. It adjoins Lord Clifford's Park and the Rocks. At the foot of its ever-green slope flows the stream which forms the Cataract, Chudleigh Brook.

About a mile and half on the road just mentioned, towards Ashburton, is Chudleigh-Knighton, generally called Knighton. A very neat Chapel belonging to the Establishment has lately been erected here, near the ruins of the dissenting place of worship.

At the entrance of Knighton, † on the right of the road which runs across the Common to Bovey-Tracey, is an interesting specimen of old domestic Architecture, an old house, used as a beer-shop, with the date 1683 under one of the windows. The road through Bovey-Tracey leads to Hound Tor Pass, Hound Tor Ridge, Hound Tor and Lustleigh Cleve, places all rich in pictorial attractions.

The road to Hound Tor Ridge lies over a hill at the entrance of the Pass. On the top of this hill a rivulet crosses the road which leads, towards the right from Bovey, to the haunts of the Ivy-leaved *Campanula* and Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), two of the loveliest of fay-flowers which grow on the banks of the rivulet, with the Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium Ossifragum*.)

† In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (temp. Henry viii.) it is called Knyghston. Its value, in an Ecclesiastical point of view, was then Two Pounds per Annum.

A short distance further, nearly at the bottom of the road-bank on the left, where a brooklet irrigates a tiny path, grows the Wax-wort, commonly called Butterwort.¹ This very interesting plant is easily recognized. The "nearly pellucid" whitish-green leaves which grow only at the bottom of a single flower-stalk, are of a wax-like colour and appearance with purplish veins, and curl upward, like the brim of a young child's hat.

With the "oilous iuyce" of this herb, says Gerard,² "the husbandmen's wives of Yorkshire do use to anoint the dugs of their kine when they are bitten by any venomous worme, or chapped, rifled and hurt by any other means."

Near Hound Tor Ridge, in Hound Tor Wood, are Becky Falls. On the top-edge of one of the large granite boulders just at the turn of the stream—the river Becky—³ and in its centre, grows the *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*, a very rare and interesting fern, and on the opposite bank the whortleberry abounds. On the left bank at the chief

1 *Pinguicula Lusitanica*, or Lusitanian Littlegrease, a name by no means indicative of richness of imagination. Instead of the term, *Pinguicula*, I conceive the term, *Ceraphylla*, would be more appropriate.

2 Page 789 Johnson Ed. 1633.

3 From Beck, doubtless, which is still used in the North of England to signify a brook, as everybody will eventually learn from the pages of "Shirley." The Becky river or rather rivulet flows into the Bovey or West Teign.

waterfall grows the *Chrysosplenium Oppositifolium*, or Golden Saxifrage, of which I shall have to write further when I describe Chudleigh Glen.

My first acquaintance with the *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*, in its natural condition, commenced at Becky Falls. Relying on the accuracy of the printed authorities I had believed that the "Becky Fall's Fern" was the *H. Tunbridgensis*. I perceived, however, that a specimen, brought thence by a friend, did not correspond with my reminiscence of that fern, and, having no work on ferns with me at the time, I sent it as a novelty to my accomplished friend, Dr. W. H. Ashley; formerly a distinguished member of the botanical class at the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Ashley decided that it was *Hymenoph. Wilsoni*: and expressed his surprise that the "Scottish filmy fern" should have been found in Devon. As no other fern of the same genus is to be found at the Falls, and as one of our most distinguished writers on ferns, Sir. W. Hooker, informs me that it is " unquestionably *Hymenophyllum Wilsoni*," the printed authorities must be in error.

This Fern grows on wet rocks in the North of England and Wales, and is found abundantly in the Highlands of Scotland and many parts of Ireland. It has also been found by Miss Rodd, on *high* granite rock near Bodmin. " It is quite distinct in its mode of growth," adds Sir W. Hooker (*British Flora*), for all the pinnae are strongly curved backwards in a direction contrary to that

of the fructification. The involucre is totally different, larger, browner, of a more rigid texture, truly ovate, each valve remarkably convex for its whole length, the edges only of the valves being applied to each other, and they are quite entire."

At the Falls it grows about 3 or 4 inches high, amidst the moss on the granite.

The *Hymenophyllum Tunbridgense*, or Tunbridge Membrane-leaf, which Withering calls, Tunbridge Goldyllocks, was first found at Tunbridge. It is said by the same authorities, Francis among them, to grow at Dunsford Bridge. I will, however, endeavour to procure specimens and give you the result when my pen reaches that picture-spot.

In Hound Tor Wood the *Lysimachia Nemorum* was in flower in September. In a field on the right of the Falls grows the Basil Thyme, (*Acinos Vulgaris*) which is rare at Chudleigh.

The beauty of the scenery on the road from Bovey-Tracey to Becky Falls is of a very high order.

On the right of this road, in the Pass, I observed a "blackberry bearing alder." (*Rhamnus Frangula*.) The dark purple berries of this shrub are of a sweetish taste. They have been used, according to Withering, to dye wool green; for which purpose they must be

gathered before they are ripe. The inner bark is yellow, the middle blood-red. It dyes yellow, and, with sulphate of iron, black. It has been used in dropsies, and constipation of the bowels of cattle, as a purgative. From a quarter to half an ounce of the inner bark, boiled in small beer, is a sharp purge. Gerard says, that it was boiled in wine or vinegar to make a lotion for tooth ache. The charcoal makes excellent gunpowder.

From the juice of the other species, *Rhamnus Catharticus*, or common buckthorn, the sap green of painters is obtained.

Further, on the same side, where the road ascends the Ridge, grows the fairest St. John's Wort. (*Hypericum Pulchrum*.)

From the highest point of the Ridge, as you look towards the tower of North-Bovey Church in the distance, with Lustleigh Cleve on the right, and Hound Tor, at a greater distance on the left, the view is exceedingly beautiful.

As you approach this Tor it appears from one point of view like a strange pile of turrets and pinnacles; and sometimes, when the full light of a summer-sunset is upon it, its singularly luminous appearance seems to supply a reason why Haytor, another of these "Granite Kings with crowns of sunset fire," was formerly called the Solar Tor.

The other side of Lustleigh Cleve, which is not

visible from Hound Tor Ridge, exhibits a profusion of granite blocks, studding in every direction the turf at the side and base of a very steep pile of granite-rift, one of the top-most portions of which is a logan stone. This stone, at the time I visited it, was made by some of the party to serve as a nut-cracker.

The road to Lustleigh Cleve and Lustleigh †, from Bovey-Tracey, is to the right of that which leads to Hound Tor Pass.

At the threshold of Lustleigh Church is an antiquarian puzzle that has never been perfectly explained. This is an inscribed stone, four feet in length and a foot and a half in breadth.

The Rev. J. P. Jones, formerly of North-Bovey, said, in 1823, that the clergyman at Lustleigh "transmitted facsimiles of it to several learned men, but could obtain no accurate information on the subject. Some conjectured that the characters (about six inches high) were Runic; others suggested that they were rude marks formed at random;" in reference to this latter possibility, he remarks—"several of the letters have been injured, and perhaps obliterated, and a few natural indentations have doubtless strangely distorted some of them, but enough remains to

† Doubtless, from the old Saxon and modern German, *Lust*, delight, and *leigh* now *lea*. Analogous to this is *Lustg urten*, the modern German for "pleasure-ground."

ascertain that it is an inscription, and not mere accidental marks. One of the letters is thought to bear a strong resemblance to Arabic, and several of the characters have a strong resemblance to certain forms of the Greek Alphabet, and a Greek inscription containing similar letters was observed by Mr. Warner, at Nakshi Rustam near Persepolis, and may be seen in the first volume of his travels through Persia. It will certainly be a subject of enquiry, how it was possible for Greek letters to be found on a stone at Lustleigh?" An antiquary may be permitted to answer, he adds, "though at the risk of being laughed at, that the Druids made use of Greek letters, and may quote the following passage from Cæsar: *neque fas esse existimant, ea literis mandare, quum in reliquis fere rebus publicis, privatisque rationibus, Græcis literis utantur.* L.6.c.13." [14]

This passage relates to the Druids of Gaul. It may be presumed, however, as the chief seat of Druidical learning was in Britain—to which, according to Cæsar, (6 Lib. 13.) all those in his time resorted who wished to obtain a more exact acquaintance with Druidism—that this use of the Greek characters was not confined to the Gallic Druids. Tacitus, moreover, (Agric. xi.) states that the British who dwelt in those parts nearest to Gaul were Gallic in appearance, religion and language.

Mr. Jones, nevertheless, adds that an antiquarian friend has pointed out to him that the inscription may be

that of a grave-stone, "from the circumstance of burying in Church Porches in very remote times."

This last supposition would very much reduce the interest of the "greatest curiosity connected with Lustleigh Church." A Church Porch is certainly not a likely place for the grave of a Superior of the Druids, and, as we have at present no authority for surmising even that the spot was at any time a Druid Cemetery, the last conjecture, if accepted, will deprive us of the romantic pleasure we might otherwise have had in recording—

"In yonder grave a Druid lies."

"In a lane near the Church is the *Bishop's Stone*, a block of granite in a hedge, adjoining the road, about five feet in height; on it may be traced the form of an escutcheon; but every part, except the outline, is completely obliterated.

"A tradition prevails, that the arms were those of Bishop Grandisson, who once passed through Lustleigh and dined on this stone." "It was most probable," adds Mr. Jones, "the pedestal of a cross, being only a few paces from a cross-road."

In the Church, next to three stone stalls, is a double piscina. In the transept lies the figure of a Knight, only the shape of whose armour can now be discerned. Risdon regards it as the monument of a knight of the Prowse family. The ruins of their castle may still be

seen on the borders of Dartmoor, at Gidleigh, the manor of which was granted to them in the time of William the Conqueror. †

The sequestered village of Lustleigh is sheltered by hills from the Dartmoor winds. It is seated in a valley nearly parallel with that of the Cleve. Near the Parsonage is a rock of very unusual form called the Parsons' Brown Loaf. "The view from the Parsonage garden, says Mr. Jones, is exquisite beyond the powers of description." After the scenery of Chudleigh, however, which, Polwhele says, "beggars all description" I must confess that I was not so fascinated with the picture-land about Lustleigh as I have been with that nearer to Chudleigh. Some places can boast but of one or two spots of pictorial beauty or grandeur, but here, where our mother earth appears like the oriental goddess of many breasts, nature abounds in loveliness.

In 1822, we are informed by Mr. Jones, the then Curate of Lustleigh, the late Rev. William Davy, offered to endow a parish School, provided the parish would build a School-room, to which liberal offer the parishioners would not accede, in consequence of their objections to the education of the poor.

This gentleman rendered himself remarkable during his thirty six years' service as Curate, by constructing a

Near Gidleigh are the remains of a Druidical circle.

printing press at the parsonage, and printing fourteen copies of a system of Divinity, in twenty six volumes, octavo, assisted only by his servant.

Near Lustleigh Cleve are the Peck Pits "the remains of ancient tin works; there are several of them inclosed by mounds of earth: no recent attempts have been made to draw off the water."

The road to the left after passing through Bovey-Tracey leads to three more of the tor-crowned hills of Dartmoor.

These hills add much to the beauty of many a picture spot at Chudleigh, from which they are distant in a south easterly direction about seven or eight miles. Rippon Tor the highest of these has, according to the Ordnance survey, an elevation of 1549 feet. It is separated from Hey Tor by Saddle Tor.

The granite table-land of Dartmoor is the highest in Devon; therefore, if you should visit Hey Tor before the summer has much advanced, you will do well to profit by my experience and take with you additional covering for the outer man.

On the top of this hill are two tors † or irregular

† Tor is usually regarded by topographical writers as a cluster of rifted rocks exposed on the surface of an upland. The word is Celtic and means a prominence. In Welsh, *tor y mynyz* means, the *swell* of the mountain.

piles of granite crags, but as one of these piles stands before the eastern face of the other, only one of the crowns of this granite king is visible from our Pixies' Rock.

On the top of the latter tor is one of those "rock basins" which tradition has connected with the savage rites of Druidism.

Some writers have argued very ingeniously to show that these rock basins are natural and not artificial reservoirs, but the antiquary may admit such a conclusion without impugning the correctness of the tradition respecting the use to which they were applied by the Druids.

Near this hill are the well known granite quarries whence much of London Bridge was obtained.

On the western front of Hey Tor is an exceedingly fine echo, and when a question respecting the antique past of the wild old forest moor is addressed to the ancient granite-head, the somewhat awful and mournful reverberations awake sensations akin to such as might attend the invocation of some lonely spirit—

—" to whom the tops
Of mountains inaccessible are haunts "

The sounds of this echo appear solemn and mysterious like a veritable voice of the everlasting hills.

“ Vain is man
 Though loud on science magic name he call
 To rear his edifice of glory high,
 And bid it live for ever. Time destroys
 His statues, and his columns, and his domes ;
 Flings his triumphal arches to the ground
 And gnaws the names of heroes and of kings,
 E’en from the marble tablet. Earth is strew’d
 O man with many a solitary wreck
 Of all thy great and beautiful ! In dust
 She sits—the classic city sits—The name
 Dear to the muses ! Who can think of thee
 Athenæ, and not drop the indulgent tear ?

————Thy hour is past ;—
 Thy noblest piles are mouldering o’er the bones
 Of the immortal dead ; while here unhurt—
 Wed almost to Eternity—secure
 In their own strength, proud baffling all the rage
 Of the defeated Elements, and all
 The ceaseless injuries of time—remain
 The columns of the wilderness ! ” *

In Mr. Burt’s notes to Carrington’s Dartmoor the names of one hundred and forty three of the Dartmoor and neighbouring Tors are given.

Several of these, like Hound Tor, have the names of

* Carrington’s Dartmoor.

Animals—Lynx, Bear, Dunnagoat, Fox, Doe, Hare, Conies, and Sheep Tors.

It is indisputable, says the same authority, that bears, wolves, foxes, boars, martens, badgers, otters, wild bulls and cows of a milk white colour, similar to those described by Boethius, as in the Caledonian forest, and which were at one time common in Great Britain, abounded in this moorish district. Bishop Lyttleton had a charter in his collection, of John, Earl of Mortaigne, afterwards King John, whereby, leave was given to the clergy and laity of Devon, to take the wolf, the goat, the wild cat, the otter and the hare out of the bounds of the forests.

The marten, once hunted, was to be seen in Lydford Woods in Mr. Burt's time, and the wolf was not extinct on Dartmoor, according to Howel, in the reign of Elizabeth.

LETTER II.

*Fight at Canonteign—Battle of the Heathfield,
and surprise of the Royalists by Cromwell—Bovey-
Tracey—Fairfax and his council of war at Chudleigh.*

The crowning point of many a lovely picture-spot, sheltered by some of the wood-covered hills of Haldon, which rise behind it, is a noble square-built mansion in the vale of Teign. Canon-Teign House, as it is called, is a modern structure; having been built by the late Viscount Exmouth, in 1830, and is the chief residence of his widow and children. From the rocky heights near, at a considerable elevation, several streams precipitate themselves into a little glen beneath, which, with the very interesting lofty waterfall, forms one of nature's beauty-shrines, much resorted to by modern pilgrims in search of the beautiful. In the glen are several interesting varieties of fern; conspicuous amongst which I noticed the very elegant *plumes* of the *Lastræa Dilatata*. The heights above are ascended conveniently by means of some rock-stairs and terraces. On reaching the summit and proceeding through the wood to some cliffs on the left, the romantic scenery of the "happy Valley Glen" below becomes visible; near which are the

remains of some old tin mines. On the way I remember to have observed the Naked-stalked Tees-dalia (*Teesdalia*, late *Iberis*, *Nudicaulis*) the "Dwarf Red Rattle," as Sir W. Hooker more decently names it, (*Pedicularis Sylvatica*), the Pansy, (*Viola Tricolor*) the Milkwell or Milkwort, (*Polygala Vulgaris*) and some species of *Veronica*, including *V. Officinalis*. The "White-climbing *Corydalis*" (*Corydalis Claviculata*) grows plentifully on a projection, a short distance from the top of the waterfalls. Near the new Mansion are the remains of the old Manor-house of Canon-teign. The manor received its name from the former owners of the property, the Black Canons of the Priory of Merton, in Surrey. † The old house is a heavy and sombre pile belonging to the Tudor age of Architecture.

† To whom it was conveyed by the Abbot and convent of de la Valle in Normandy about 1268. The Priory of Merton was founded by Gilbert Norman, who built a convent of wood there in 1115, and by Henry 1st. who gave the manor to the Abbey. It is situated on the river Wandle about 7 or 8 miles from London. A parliament was held there (1236) on which occasion the prelates attempted to introduce the Roman Canon and Imperial law, but were met by the memorable reply of the Barons "*Nolumus leges Angliæ mutare.*" Thomas a Becket was educated there. Only the east window and outer walls, enclosing a space of about 60 acres, now remain. Manufactories for Calico-printing and a copper mill have been erected on the site of the Priory. In Mannings' time the former employed more than 1000 men. The advowsons and Rectories of Ashcombe and Berry-Pomeroy formerly belonged to this Priory.

Manning's Surrey 251 256.

It was fast approaching the antiquarian honors of a fine old pile of ruins. A portion of the roof was crumbling venerably, and the ivy was finding its way through the crannies of the old mouldy and slimy walls, but its present noble owner has sacrificed all those hoary attractions to the genius of the Chrystal Palace, utility. He has, I understand, re-roofed and placed in repair the old house, and it is now inhabited by a farmer and his family, and by the game-keeper and carter of Lord Exmouth. The corridors, however, the stairs and balustrades, exceedingly lofty chambers, with enriched panellings of Sycamore, the heavy oak beams and girders, deep square fire-places, and stable-doors loop-holed for fire-arms, all remain as of yore.

In the year 1645 this old manor house was the property of a gentleman of the name of Davye,¹ whose remains with those of his immediate descendants, up to 1682, still repose in the neighbouring church of Christowe. Their monuments remain in its chancel. Near the communion table are also those of the Gibbons who preceded them.

During the latter part of the first mentioned year "near 5000"² horse belonging to the brigade of the Royalist general, Lord Goring, were quartered in the South

¹ After the Reformation it was granted to John, Lord Russel. From him it passed to John Berry who was executed at Tyburn for rebellion 1549. Dr. Davy the last of his family died in 1692. Lysons 2 vol. 103.

² Ang. Red. p. 151.

Hams; chiefly at Totness, Newton Bushel, "and as near as Chidley;" † "the Hams," adds the old Parliamentarian, "being the only plentiful and unharassed part of Devonshire." The forces of Fairfax were then beseiging Exeter, and Okey—afterwards executed, in 1662, as a regicide—was in possession of Fulford House, at Dunsford, about seven miles from the city.

In the month of December, information having been received that the house of one Mr. Davis, of Canon Teen, stood convenient for a garrison and "might beare an usefull proportion towards the blocking up of Excester, and hindering of provisions from the South Hams," the peaceable occupation of Mr. Davye was suddenly interrupted by the arrival of some dragoons from Fulford House under Captain Woggan, who took possession of Canon Teign House in the name of the Parliament, "on the Lords' day" December 21st. Three circular apertures in two of the oak doors—which, it is said, grate on the same hinges which they had during this civil war—seem to show that the Captain was not idle during the short interval that was allowed him for preparation. One of these doors commands the approach from Ashton over the Teign, the other that towards Chudleigh. "They were no longer in the house but Munday Dec. 22 in the morning" says Sprigge's newspaper-chronicle (page 152) then the

† Chudleigh was so called, I understand, even by the late Lord Clifford, and it preserves its old name amongst the labouring class to this day.

Royalists came, under a Lieutenant Colonel, and burnt the out-buildings and stormed the mansion. How long the fight endured we know not, nor what individual acts of bravery signalized the conflict. "Captaine Woggan" however, behaved so "gallantly" that the royalists were compelled to retire, carrying with them the Lieutenant Colonel, "desperately wounded," and leaving behind them four killed, and divers prisoners. †

While Captain Woggan was at Canon-Teign, Fairfax and Cromwell, in a council of war, resolved to march from their head-quarters, at Tiverton, into the South Hams, where the greatest part of the enemy lay, taking the road by Crediton, Dunsford and Canon-Teign, which leads to Chudleigh Bridge, and thence to Ashburton and Bovey-Tracey.

The Royalist detachment probably came from Chudleigh. In the old Parish-accompt-book of this place the name of only one Lieutenant Colonel of the King's troops is mentioned and to him the following extract relates—

"Item for Lieut. Col. Porter and diverse other commanders of Col. Sheelyes Regiment and their six horses two dayes and one night—13s.

This reckoning was for the most part payed, but by consent of several of the parishioners redelivered 28 Nov. 1645."

We learn from the same accompt that Chudleigh was the quarters of Colonel Wise thirteen days before the date which Sprigge affixes to his account of the fight.

"Item for three pullets 9 Decr. when ye Lo Wentworth dyned at Col. Wise's quarters—1s. 6d.

Before the march of the principal force, however, Captain Woggan, or some other officer "from Canonteen," made a movement in advance "into the enemies quarters," apparently at Hennock. Hennock is a very ancient village, the existing houses of which seem to be of an older era than that of Cromwell. It is seated on that part of Hennock Hills which faces Chudleigh. At one extremity of these hills is Christowe, at the other Bovey-Tracey.

On this occasion, says Sprigge, the Dragoons took

The account of Vicars (Parliamentary Chronicle page 336) appears to be full of error. He says—About the third of this instant December we had certain intelligence, by letters out of the West that our renowned generall Sir Thomas Fairfax had taken Canon Teen a strong fort or block house of the enemies by which means they had the command well nigh of all the river Exe. It was gained by storm and they found among the enemies slain in the enterprise, a Lieut. Col. and two Captains and divers common souldiers, and after the taking there came voluntarily to Sir Thomas Fairfax forces, stationed thereabout, a Cornet of the enemies with 30 good horse who had revolted from them. Also by other letters out of the West we were presently informed that a party of his Excellences forces had taken *Callyntine House* and therein between 30 and 40 horse or many prisoners and their armes; by gaining of which place the Enemy is much more straitened than before and the passage up on the river is quite blocked up." He says that Fulford House was taken on the 8th. of December "by the taking of which garrison the way was open to Plymouth." The old road to Plymouth lay across Dartmoor, through Moreton-Hampstead.

“a Captain, 9 men and 20 horse.” It is probable that this was the “Cornet and 30 horse” which, according to Vicars, had “revolted” from the Royalists.

The account of Sprigge is as follows—“Monday, January 5, a private consultation was held, and divers officers of the army sought council of Heaven that day, (keeping it as a private day of humiliation) in answer whereto, God inclined their hearts to resolve of an advance. The next day a public council of war was called, and (that the former resolution might appear to be the answer of God) it was in this council resolved to advance into the South Hams.

The Dragoons from Canonteen were beforehand with this resolution, which this day fell into the enemies quarters, took a Captain, 9 men and 20 horse. And, that this purpose to advance might finde the less interruption, the same day the stockings and shoes (which the poor foot had so great need of and had so long expected) came to Tiverton, most seasonably to fit them for a march; where-with they were so well satisfied, as that they shewed much forwardness to march without staying for cloaks, which they had much need of also, being many of them all to tatters, and the weather was extreame cold to boot. While the army was preparing to march some of our Dragoons snatched at the enemy at *Huick* (Hennock?) took a Lieutenant, 10 prisoners, 22 horses and one of their colours with the motto *patientia victrix*.”

D

The Royalist brigade in the South Hams had at this time been left under the command of Lord Wentworth. Lord Goring was absent in France, arranging for the passage of reinforcements. Bovey-Tracey, we gather from the *Anglia Rediviva*,¹ was then the quarters of five luckless regiments of horse belonging to this brigade.

In one of the rooms of a house, since pulled down, called then, I am told, Barton House, the principal officers of these cavalry regiments had set down to cards. This was on the evening of Friday the 9th of January. Who these officers were, and what the particular game was at which they hazarded infinitely more than their stakes, we are not informed. It might have been that at which Henry VIII. staked and lost to his friend Bryan, the bells and lead of abbey churches, or that at which the French diplomatist played on his death-bed. But while the commanding officers lost the time in amusement, Cromwell and his second in command Dalbier—his Dutch military tutor, who taught him the mechanical part of soldiering and helped him to drill his Ironsides²—were rapidly approaching these card-playing soldiers. It is highly probable that Cromwell avoided the principal road by Chudleigh Bridge, where his approach might have been perceived much earlier and speedily communicated, and reached Bovey-Tracey

¹ pp 163—4.

² Carlyle. Cromwell's correspondence Vol 1.

either through the road from the village of Hennock † or the still less frequented road leading from the high road past Botton. Fairfax and Cromwell had, however taken other measures for ensuring the inaction of the royalists at Bovey.

"Thursday Jan. 28," continues our former authority, "all things being prepared in readiness for a march, the horse and foot with their ammunition on horseback set forward to Crediton. And, at the same time, Sir Hardresse Waller, with two regiments, marched from Crediton to Bow, as if the army had bent towards Oakhampton, (where the enemy had both horse and foot) whereas it was only to amuse them." At Bow, however Waller attacked and defeated a body of the royalists, which served further to conceal the main design. "At the same time a brigade of horse and foot marched that night to Crediton, and the next day, though very cold, and much snow upon the ground, the same brigade marched to Bovey-Tracey (then the enemies quarters) Lieutenant General Cromwell going in person with them, who about six at night fell into their quarters at Bovey where part of Lord Wentworth's brigade then lay."

We may easily conceive the confusion and conster-

† Hennock, according to Polwhele, means, *old hill*, Hen certainly does mean old, in Welsh, or old British, but I know no such word as, *nock*, a hill. Oe in Welsh, means outside. Hennock stands high and much exposed towards the north east.

the royalists when Cromwell's brigade entered the town. This was accomplished so skilfully that his soldiers approached Barton House during the card-playing. But the officers within, with considerable presence of mind, threw their stakes into the street, and, whilst the soldiers were scrambling for the money, escaped by a back way across the river. ¹

Where the principal conflict took place history does not say, nor who commanded the few hastily assembled soldiers who maintained it.

Tradition still points to the Heathfield as the place of the engagement. Vicars ² merely states that, "a party fell upon them and beat them out of their quarters at Tracie and *out of the field* also."

"On Challabrook enclosure is a granite pillar ten feet high and two feet thick, called Longstone, now used as a gate-post; it is said to mark the spot where one of the officers was buried." ³ This memorial is said to be the remains of "an old grey cross" and the local belief respecting its monumental character has been gracefully expressed by one of the fair inhabitants of Bovey-Tracey, in the following extract from a short poem entitled "The Soldiers

1 Heath's Chronicle p 93 Ang. Red. 163 Vicars 341.

2 Parliamenterie Chronicle 341.

3 Rev. J. P. Jones History of Tiegnbridge m s.

Grave," which appeared formerly in one of the county newspapers signed if I mistake not, E. A. C.

It is no sacred ground
That marks the soldiers grave, but far around
The dreary moorland stretches. Passers by
See no device of pompous heraldry,
No measured line upon the rugged stone
That marks the humble spot. One sign alone
To the observant stranger serves to show
Where the uncoffined dead reposes low;
An old grey cross its broken form uprears—

Cromwell is said to have passed the night in the old meeting house, then a private dwelling.

He took during the action "four hundred horse, and 3 and 7 colours; one of them the Kings' colours, with the crown and C. R. upon it." In the town a Major, some few officers, and about fifty men were taken. †

"It was almost supper time with them" (six P. M.) adds Sprigge "when our men entered the town."

"About a mile from the town are considerable remains of a breast work, thrown across the narrow part of the Heathfield, extending from the fields near Little

† Rushworth says, between 3 and 400 horses, but most of the men through the darkness of the night got away except one Major &c. as above. Parl. Coll. 1701. Part 4 Vol. 1. 95.

Bovey to the recent enclosures near Ilington. The road leading to Newton passes through it. At some places it is nearly fifteen feet in height. It appears to have been thrown up in a hurry to defend the town on the south east, and was most probably formed by the Royalist army, when stationed at Bovey-Tracey. I have been informed that balls and warlike implements have been occasionally dug up here." ¹

Bovey-Tracey is an irregular collection of houses built on one of the sloping extremities of Heanock Hills. It received the name that distinguishes it from North Bovey from the Traceys, Barons of Barnstaple. The church which contains some old monuments of the Hele and Stawell families, and a curiously carved old pulpit, is dedicated to Thomas à Becket, and is supposed ² to have been built by the heir of that Sir William de Tracey who took a leading part in the murder of the prelate. There is an altar-tomb at Morthoe, North Devon, which was supposed to contain the remains of this de Tracey. It commemorates, however "William de Tracey, rector of Morthoe, who in 1308 founded a chantry in that church and died in 1322."³

The last vicar of Bovey-Tracey was the brother of the celebrated Macaulay. The present is the late chaplain

¹ Rev. J. P. Jones M.S.

² Oliver Eccl. Ant.

³ Lyson's Devonshire 2 Vol. 335.

to her Majesty, the honourable Leslie Courtenay, son of the present Earl of Devon.

The street on the right, from the Heathfield, in the centre of the town, leads to some higher ground, whence some pretty views may be enjoyed of the Dartmoor scenery. There is an interesting chapel-like cottage on the hill at the end of this street which is the residence of Dr. Croker; from whom I have received much valuable information respecting the geology of the neighbourhood. The mansion and grounds on the hillside in front belong to his brother-in-law W. Hole Esq. On the left, as you approach Cross Cottage, a new mansion is in course of erection, by C. Bentinck Esq., on the site of an ancient one called Indio, and, by Prince, Indeho, a name supposed to be derived from *in deo*. The property belonged formerly to the Priory of Black Friars at Bridgewater and has only recently paid tithes. The hedges adjoining the Heathfield, near the Pond Garden, may still be seen, where the religious used to walk unobserved. This water of the pond is brought from the Haytor Hills, a wise provision of our ancestors. In pulling down the ancient house some shillings of Elizabeth were found. †

Dr. Croker, of whom I have just spoken, belongs to one of the most ancient families in the county. Their name was anciently written Crocker. The primitive seat of the family in Devon is supposed to be Crocker's Well,

† Dr. Croker.

now Crockern Well, a small hamlet in Drewsteignton. They have also given its name to Crockern Tor, Dartmoor; where the parliament was wont to be held for stannary cases. Sir John Crocker, "who was cup bearer to Edward iv, and signally distinguished himself in the war against Perkin Warbeck," † dwelt at Lineham, "a pleasant seat by the river Yaum or Yalham, near Plymouth," and his posterity flourished there when Prince wrote his "Worthies." The family monuments are still to be seen in Lineham church. Courtenay Croker, of Lineham, told Prince, "that when he was in Saxony, he met some gentlemen there of his name who used the same coat of arms." The Crokers of Lineham have intermarried with several eminent houses, amongst others with those of Arundel, Daunay, Bonville and Courtenay Pole. The present John Wilson Croker of literary celebrity is of this family.

Bovey-Tracey is about four miles, west by south, from Chudleigh. The population amounts to about two thousand. Near the town, close to the Bovey-coal pits, is a pottery for the manufacture of earthenware which employs about three hundred people; some of whom are from the Staffordshire potteries. The potter's clay, of which hereafter, is found in the neighbourhood. During the stay of the parliamentarians in the town they made their usual assault on the noses of church images. The brass eagle-lectern,

† Prince ("Worthies of Devon,") from whom the whole of this account is taken.

in the chancel, was then buried in a ditch until the restoration of Charles II. The Earl of Devon is lord of this manor.

Near Bovey-Tracey, at the foot of Haytor hills, is Ilington, which Vicars calls, Ilminster, and Sprigge, Ellington. The upper part of the north aisle of its church, the windows of which aisle are small and pointed, is supposed to have been built about 1350. The highly enriched screen and some of the old carved seats still remain. The latter are ornamented with crockets, finials, and quatrefoils, and bear the arms of Beaumont and Pomeroy. The manor, at an early period, belonged to the family of Beaumont. In 1477 it was the property of Lord John Dinham. At his death, in this year, three shares passed to the Arundels and others, until they were sold, in 1828, by George Templer Esq. of Stover to the Duke of Somerset, the present proprietor of this portion of the estate, whose handsome residence, Stover Lodge, built of granite from Haytor rocks in 1781, adjoins Bovey Heathfield.

A canal called the Stover-canal, about four miles in length, projected by James Templer Esq. in 1770, commences a short distance beyond the neighbouring village of Teigngrace (part of the Stover estate); to which place a rail-road has been carried, whereby the pipe-clay and granite of the neighbourhood are transported. To this canal, which drains the Heathfield, its Marsh-Pimpernels, Myrtles and

Sundews owe the destruction of their romantic companions, the Wills & the Wisp, which used formerly to haunt the marshes of the Heathfield.

At the time the military events took place, which I have just related, "His Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax" marched from Tiverton to Moreton; but part of the carriage horses with the ammunition, by reason of the frost, could get no nearer to Bovey than Dunsford.

The day after the action at Bovey, the weather being still "extream bitter cold," the forces at Moreton and Bovey "had a rendezvous near Bovey;" doubtless on the Heathfield, where intelligence was brought that "about one hundred and twenty of those that had escaped in the night were got into Ellington (Ilsington) church." Whereupon, a party of horse and foot was sent to dislodge and capture them. They left Ilsington church however as soon as they heard that Cromwell's troopers were on their way thither. The army of the Parliament marched that night to Ashburton, which had been the head-quarters of the King's troops the night before. Their movements appear to have been too quick for Lord Wentworth, even on this occasion, notwithstanding the terrible warning he had already received respecting the value of prompt execution in time of war.

Fairfax came upon the heels of the retreating royalists at Ashburton, beat their rear-guard, and dispersed

the two regiments of horse which yet remained of the five that Lord Goring had left under Wentworth's command.

The next great exploit of the parliamentarians occurred Jan. 19th. at Dartmouth. This town was defended by a hundred pieces of cannon. The enemy had "no pieces at all of their own; the way and weather preventing their transport." Notwithstanding this deficiency the place was stormed at eleven o'clock at night. As soon as the royalists "had discharged their pieces once," the enemy got under "and quickly possessed them," and turned them against their owners. "The commanders of every party took the points they were sent against, with the loss of but one man and few wounded;" which, Sprigge says, was "a strange and unparalleled undertaking." †

On Saturday Jan. 24th. after taking Dartmouth, Fairfax marched from Totnes to the house of the Lady Reynolds, and thence on the 25th. "the Lords' day, after forenoon sermon," to Chudleigh; "endeavouring to take a view of Pouldram (Powderham Castle) before which place Col. Hammond was set down with some force. But night coming on (whilst he had yet two miles thither) he was forced to return to Chidley without viewing the castle."

† Ang. Red. 164, 2 p 167. Among the prisoners was Major Francis Fulford (Vicars Parl. Chron. 355.)

"Capt. Batten with a squadron of ships blockaded the Haven, and also landed 200 of his seamen, who did great service during the storm" Rushworth, Part 4, Vol. 1. 96.

Powderham Castle surrendered the same night. Colonel Hammond found in it five barrels of powder, "match and bullet proportionable" and four pieces of cannon.¹

During his stay at Chudleigh, of which there are some interesting memoranda in the parish chest, news was brought to Fairfax that the commander of a French vessel with a packet from the Queen had put into Dartmouth, thinking that it was still in possession of the King's troops. The packet of letters was thrown into the sea when those on board discovered their mistake. "But," says the author of "Englands Recovery," "God provided a wave to bring it to the boat that was sent out to seek it."

Letters were found therein from the Queen, Lord Goring, Lord Jermyn, Davenant, and others.

On Thursday January 29th. Fairfax went from Chudleigh to Tiverton, to prevent the junction of some horse from Oxford with Lord Goring's force, then near Barnstaple, and returned again, before February 5th. to make further preparations for the siege of Exeter.

In his letter to Lenthall, the Speaker of the House of Commons, printed by order of the House,² Fairfax

1 An attack had been made on "Pouldrum House" in October 1645, "but, after hard service, they (the Parliamentarians) were forced to retreat." Rushworth.

2 "A Fuller relation of Sir Thomas Fairfax routing all the King's armies in the West" 1645.

says the continual foul weather, and the absence of Colonel Cook, in Dorsetshire, with so many of the horse, occasioned his stay in these parts for a fortnight.

"On Lords' day February 8th., letters having been intercepted from Lord Wentworth to Sir John Berkley, a council of war was called at Chidley, and also another on Monday 9th.

In this council it was determined that the management of the siege of Exeter should be committed to Sir Hardresse Waller; and Fairfax marched from Chudleigh to Crediton, his head-quarters. †

Exeter was then completely "blocked up and straitened on all sides" with three regiments of foot and two of horse.

Vicars (page 341) says that one hundred and fifty

† The following confirmatory memorials of the residence of Fairfax at Chudleigh are taken from the Parish account-book—

"Item for woode for ye guards when the generall was here from 24 Jan untill 1 Febr being eight dayes and 12 seames at every one of those 8 dayes at 1s 4d the seame.. 16s. "

"Item Munday 2 Febr one zeame and halfe for ye same guards an order being obtained from ye generall the day before that ye neere adaicent parishes should assist us".. 2s.

And so on, up to February 9th. inclusive, when, as we have seen, Sprigge correctly says, Fairfax left Chudleigh.

head of cattle, and store of other provisions, designed for the relief of Exeter, which that city, he adds, "blessed the Lord ! come short of," were taken at Bovey-Tracey. Exeter surrendered on Monday April 13th. "at twelve o'Clock at noon."

LETTER III.

BOTANICAL NOTICES

of Amaryllids, Ranuncles, Orchids, Junceas, and Lentibulars—Relations of the British Flora to the Continental—Connection of the Asturian type of the Munster coast, with the current of Major Rennell.

It would afford me additional gratification to give you some account of several flowers mentioned in my former letters; but the information respecting them, which is within my reach at the present moment, is either so unsatisfactory as to be scarcely worth transcription, or is merely technical, and, therefore, interesting only to such as are in the habit of consulting its regular depositories. Whenever I give merely the name of a plant you may infer that I have nothing of interest to communicate respecting it, or that, you will receive its biography in subsequent letters; devoted, like the present, almost exclusively to botanical matters.

A good portable history of British plants, alphabetically arranged, is first upon my list of botanical desiderata. There are many manuals which contain some good technical descriptions of plants; but a most useful and interesting portable plant-biography might be compiled from the accounts of ancient and modern writers, omitting every thing of a technical character. Technical description is valuable only to botanical students, and they will, of course, seek it in the accredited text-books of the science. The other kind of description, the history of the plant, must at present be sought in ponderous folios, and voluminous, often inaccessible, because foreign, works.

Some plants, however, and those in appearance most interesting, have no place in history. "The world," says the author of Van Artevelde, "knows nothing of its greatest men," and the botanical world tells us nothing of some, at least, of its prettiest flowers.

After discovering, for the first time, a secluded bower of the Ivy-leaved Campanula, and noting with botanical rapture its tiny azure bells or vaselets, and its light-green gossamer leaves—"heart-shaped" and arrow-edged—how unsatisfactory it is to open an *Encyclopædia* of Plants merely to learn that, it is so like the *Veronica hederifolia* that Linnæus supposed it to be a hybrid!

A similar disappointment awaits us in searching for the history of another flower-fay, the Lady *Anagallis*

Tenella, that is, Anglice, the *little-tender laughing-one*, at whose feet also the moorland rivulet often murmurs. It is easily recognised amongst the marsh-rarities of Bovey-Heathfield, on the way to the Potteries, by its double rows of small, heart-shaped, smooth-edged leaves and pink flowers.

The principal habitat of the Daffodil (*Narcissus Pseudo-Narcissus*) in this neighbourhood, as I indicated in my first letter, is at Crocombe † Bridge, on the banks of the Teign. The Daffodil is rare in Scotland, but abounds in France and England. It shares in the emetic properties of its congeners, the true *Narcissi*, but unlike them it loves the banks of the stream. The "*Narcissus of the Poets*" grows in heathy open fields, on a sandy soil, "and seems rather to shun the limpid, silvery springs to overhang which was death to the beloved of Echo. This flower, the true *Narcissus* of the botanist (*Narcissus poeticus*), according to Sir J. E. Smith, corresponds exactly to the description which Dioscorides has given of the flower of Greek legend. It certainly does not correspond to the description of Ovid

The *Narcissus poeticus* is a "pure white" flower and its nectary has a "deeply coloured" or "crimson" border.

The *Narcissus* of Ovid is a *yellow* flower with white leaves surrounding its centre.

† Crocombe means, *winding vale*; from the Celtic *cro* curve, *croca*, "bent in and out," and *cwm*, a valley.

Nusquam corpus erat. Croceum pro corpore florem
Inveniunt, foliis medium cingentibus albis.

Whilst Ovid was prosecuting his studies among the Greeks at Athens, he had of course ample opportunity for becoming familiar with their Narcissus; and it is obvious that he would not have called a flower with pure white petals, a yellow flower.

The description of the Ovidian Narcissus is that of the flower of the Pale Narcissus or "Primrose-peerless" (*Narcissus biflorus*), as given by Macgillivray, viz—"petals pale sulphur yellow," funnel-topped nectary, "notched at the edge," "border of the nectary white."¹ The white edged nectary is evidently the critical sign of Ovid's flower and the white "*Narcissus poeticus*" has a "nectary edged with crimson." The two plants are similar in the general form of the *flowers*, and the crenate-margined nectary of the one is described exactly as that of the other in all respects save that of the deeply-coloured border.

I submit therefore that the *Narcissus biflorus* has a better claim than its congener to the title of *Narcissus Ovidianus*.

Though it is called *biflorus*, it is sometimes found with a single flower. It grows "on watery banks, occasionally with the the common *Narcissus* or daffodil."²

¹ Sir W. Hooker's description of the nectary of the *Narcissi* is, as usual, excellent—"a campanulate or cup-shaped *crown*, within which are the stamens."

² Withering's *British Plants*.

In relation to the flower of a legend it appears to me that Ovid is a better authority than his contemporary Dioscorides. Though the latter wrote in its language, he was not a native of Greece.

It is possible however, that you may have thought before this, notwithstanding your love of the poesy of Art, that I should have been better occupied in telling you something useful about the daffodils of Crocombe.

Lindley (*Flora Medica*) says the bulbs of the daffodil have considerable energy as emetics. They are administered occasionally on the continent, in doses of five to ten grains, to produce nausea, and of thirty grains as an emetic. In the form of extract, he continues, they are almost a specific in cases of hooping cough, in doses of two or three grains, but are not so good as Belladonna. In doses of two or three drachms, the extract is a deadly poison. According to Loudon and Hooker the smell of the flowers of some species produces an injurious effect upon the nerves. "For this reason Narcissus was consecrated to the Furies who, by means of it, were accustomed to stupify those they wished to punish."† No injurious effect, however, results from the smell of the daffodil so far as I have observed.

During the continental blockade, we are informed by

† Some derive the name of the genus from *narke* stupor or torpor; others, from the verb *na#kao* to benumb.

Duchartre, † M. Loiseleur Deslongchamps tried to substitute the *Pseudo-narcissus* for *ipecacuanha*. The experience, however, of this observer proved that the daffodil is inferior in this respect to the *Narcissus odorus*.

Two physicians of Valenciennes have declared that strong emetic properties exist in the flowers, and have advised the employment of the powder and extract of them. Others have denied the exactitude of their experiments ; so that, Dr. Duchartre says, the facts of the case remain to be established by further observations when circumstances may again render the employment of the daffodil necessary. We know positively, he adds, the antispasmodic action of these flowers, in which M. Deslongchamps discovered a property sufficiently strong to be useful.

The three species of *Narcissus*, *Galanthus nivalis*, or *Snowy Milk flower* (the Snowdrop) and another single species, the *Leucojum æstivum*, or *Summer White Violet*, (the Summer Snowflake), constitute the three British genera of the natural order *Amaryllidiæ*.

The foreign species are found in every great division of the world and are much distinguished by the beauty of their flowers.

Some of the bulbs are highly poisonous. One of them, the *Hæmanthus toxicarius*, or *arrow-poisoning Blood-flower*, supplies a poison for Hottentot arrows.

The lesser Celandine, as I have mentioned before, belongs to the genus *Ranunculus*, which term means, a

† Dictionnaire Naturelle.

little frog. The genus is so named because little frogs abound where the species grow. *Bulbous Littlefrog* (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) is, therefore, the scientific designation of a butter-cup.

In honor of the little frogs an order of the natural system has been named, *Ranunculaceæ*, or the *Littlefrogians*; and this order is usually placed first by Decandolle, and most modern botanists.

The *Anemone*, the *Pheasants' eye*, the *Globe-Flower*, the *Columbine*, the *Hellebore*, the *Wolfsbane*, the *Pæony*, and others, are all *Littlefrogians*.

From a similar scientific principle many of the family names of the genus humanum have arisen.

I am unable to perceive, however, since the decent names of some plants have been changed for others, why some of the most beautiful of the flower-world should still be compelled to bear names, given to them, by impure imaginations, during the night of ignorance. Men arise from a condition of debasement to one of exaltation and sometimes carry up with them names indicative only of their former obscurity. But the marvellous varieties of *Orchis* must still retain the beauty and distinction they had in patriarchal ages, though (as I have lately observed on the Surrey side of London) "Noah" now keeps a coffee shop, and "Pharoah" has become a "green-grocer."

The common name of this genus, which gives its learned name to the first order of the natural system, is *Crowfoot*; so named from the form of the butter-cup leaf.

The lesser Celandine is sometimes inappropriately called Pilewort Crowfoot; the former name being an equivalent of its Latin specific one, *Ficaria*. It has a power of closing its petals in a much greater degree than others, and in this confoliate state we usually find it morning and evening.

Withering says its young heart-shaped leaves may be eaten in the spring. Most of the species of Crowfoot, however, are in some degree poisonous. Curtis † has known the Upright Meadow-Crowfoot (*Ranunculus acris*) to have produced "considerable inflammation in the hand of a person who carried it but a little distance." The root of the Butter-cup has the power of inflaming and blistering the skin. Curtis says it raises blisters with less pain and more safety than cantharides. The roots have been applied to the joints, particularly in cases of gout. They lose their stimulating property if kept long. According to Hoffman, beggars have made use of them to blister their skins; and the same has been said of the Celery-leaved Crowfoot (*R. Sceleratus*). Hogs are fond of the bulbs of the butter-cup, and will dig them up. It has but five petals, while the Celandine, in our fields, has eight and ten. It is readily distinguished from the *R. acris* by its furrowed flower-stalk. That of the former is round. *R. Sceleratus* has extremely small pale-yellow flowers, and grows, in watery places, sometimes as high as two feet.

The Corn-Crowfoot, which has also small pale-

† Flora Lond.

yellow flowers, and is distinguished by its prickly seed-vessels, is said to be poisonous to sheep. Three ounces of its juice killed a dog in four minutes. ¹

Deleterious qualities have also been attributed to the Water-Crowfoot (*R. aquatilis*), but Dr. Pulteney ² has ascertained that it is alone capable of supporting horses, cows, and pigs, in good condition, and that these animals eat it with avidity. It inhabits the pools in our neighbourhood, and is easily recognized by its beautiful white flowers, and its two, widely differing, kinds of leaves; the immersed ones being hair-like. In running streams sometimes all the leaves are hair-like. Chaumeton says, that the Celandine Crowfoot has no venomous and no medical quality. ³

The Orchis still bears the old barbarous name it had in the days of Dioscorides. ⁴ The old English names of the species, which modern refinement has expunged, were even worse than the Greek. Nevertheless two of them remained in Withering at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In the old books we find, the Man-Orchis, the Monkey-Orchis, the Lizard, the Frog, the Butterfly, the Bee, the Drone, the Gnat, the Fly, and the Birds-nest Orchis; all so named from the extraordinary forms of their flowers. Only two of these, the Monkey, and the Lizard,

1 Withering.

2 Linn. Trans. Vol. 5.

3 Flore Medicale.

4 Sprengel. Res. Herb. 189.

retain their old generic name, in common with nine other species; two of which are the "early purple" (*Orchis Masculata*), and the *Orchis Maculata*.¹

According to Linnæus (*Mat. Med.*), the *Orchis* possesses exhilarating and narcotic properties.

From the tubers of the "early purple," and other species, a nutritious substance called, Salep, much used by the Orientals, is made in Persia and Turkey, and exported, chiefly from the latter country, to Europe.

It contains, according to one authority, a soluble matter, in about sixty parts of water, and an insoluble portion, analogous in its properties to the gum of Bassora. It was analysed by Caventou, who ascertained that it was pure starch, insignificant in quantity, mixed with a gummy matter like bassorine. A thick mucilage will be made by putting about an ounce of Salep-powder in a pint of boiling water; and this will become like a thick glue by the addition of biborate of soda, or calcined magnesia.

Salep is an excellent analeptic or restorative in any case of physical debility. In Poland they make a ptisan of it, which they administer in a great number of diseases.

It is employed in France by dyers, in some of their operations, instead of gum-Arabic. In the East it is

¹ See pp 5-6.

used constantly as food, but in Europe, at present, only in sick chambers. †

Its use in this country, I am informed by a young London chemist of considerable scientific knowledge, Mr. Philip Gerard, is almost superseded by arrow-root, sago, and tapioca. In Smyrna they adulterate opium with it. The Turks, however, still hold it in great estimation as a strengthening medicine; and throughout Greece it is given in diseases of the bowels and respiratory organs. It is sold in the latter country in the form of a jelly sweetened with honey and rendered slightly acrid by cypress roots. The vendors convey it about at day-break, in tin vessels with hot coals underneath them, crying "Salep! Salep! seston!" or "*refined Salep!*" These vendors are called Saleptsides.

The Persian Salep is sold in the bazaars of Smyrna and Constantinople, and is distinguished by its white and corneous appearance, and saline taste. But in the east the Turkish or Macedonian Salep is preferred. Grecian Salep is not of commercial value in this country, though what are called its male roots fetch a high price in the East.

The gathering of the crop commences in April and May, after the inflorescence, and is over in August. The soil is shovelled up to the tops of the mountains, and the tubercles are sorted and washed well in running waters.

† Duchartre.

The small ones are strung on threads by children, and dried in the sun. They fetch double the price of those not so carefully picked.

A method of making Salep from the tubers of the *O. Mascula*, is given in the Philosophical Transactions Vol 59. "The best time to gather the roots, is when the seed is formed, and the stalk going to fall, for then the new bulb, of which Salep is made, is arrived at its full size. The new roots being separated from the stalk, are to be washed in water, and the outer thin skin taken off. They are then to be set on a tin plate, in an oven, heated to the degree of a bread oven. In six, eight, or ten minutes, they will have acquired a transparency like horn, without being diminished in size. They are then to be removed into another room to dry and harden, which will be done in a few days; or they may be finished by a very slow heat in a few hours. Salep thus prepared may be sold for less than a shilling a pound, and affords a mild nutriment, which, in times of scarcity, in cases of dysentery and strangury, and on ship-board, † may be extremely useful."

Mr. Moulton, made the experiments, described in this account, with the tubers of the *O. mascula* as it is absurdly called. Withering thought it highly probable that every British species of *Orchis* may be used indiscriminately. I anticipate however, that those species which

† In correcting the taste of salt water. Dr. Percival's *Essays* 2 part 37.

grow in moist and marshy ground, the smell of which is unpleasant, and even rank, are not so well adapted for Salep-making as the more agreeable species.

The tubers may be dried either in an oven, or in the sun, by tying the thin stalks to a line. When dry they are egg-shaped, wrinkled tubercles, slightly transparent, or hornlike, and will keep, in this condition, according to Duchartre, for an indefinite length of time. The cheapness of the Persian Salep, he says has prevented its manufacture in Europe; but if, as we have seen stated, it can be manufactured in Britain for one shilling per pound, when the Persian Salep is sold in London at six shillings and eight pence per pound, some other obstacle than the cheapness of the Persian article, must, I apprehend, have prevented its manufacture in England.

In the fourth edition of Withering's British Plants, "it was stated that, if ever plantations of the *Orchis mascula* were made, the plants must be propagated by roots; for, the seeds seldom come to perfection: and that, Dr. Percival "got some seeds to all appearance perfect, but they would not vegetate." In the fifth edition, however, we are informed that Mr. Salisbury and a Mr. Hunter had both succeeded in propagating the *Orchis*, from seeds. The former, in a communication to the Linnean society, states, that the pollen of this plant only differs "in size and shape from that of other vegetables;" and that, "when applied to the stigma, it never

fails to impregnate the seeds, which germinate in the greatest proportion, without any care, in the moist-parts of a hot house. †

The Salep of Commerce is obtained from the *O. pyramidalis*, *O. mascula*, and *O. morio*, which flourish abundantly in Albania or Epirus, about the neighbourhood of Janina, and in the beautiful world-famous vale of Thessalian Tempe.

The *O. mascula*, which grows on Parnassus, and by the "Castalian spring," and also in Arcadia and Argolis—the *O. maculata*, and *nigra*, and *Gymnadenia conopsea*, of the "Isles of Greece"—the *O. pyramidalis* and *undulatifolia* of the Messenian hills and Lacedæmon—*O. sambucina* of Elis—and *O. longiflora* and *variegata* which grow throughout the Morea—supply the tubercles for the Salep of Greece.

It might have been anticipated that the scientific name of an early plant, relating to its tuberous root, which root produces Salep, would be such an expression as, *Salepina præcox*, or *Salepa prima*, rather than *Orchis mascula*, especially when the scientific refinement which adopted the latter knew that it would often be uttered by fair lips. One would have thought too, that a scientific name, not only sufficiently, but strikingly distinctive of the genus, would have been suggested by the extraordi-

† 1 Vol. 121. 2 Vol. 28.

nary resemblances which its flowers bear to particular forms of insect and animal life. † Assuredly, without descending to the root, the flowers would have supplied any imagination with a generic name more in accordance with rational principles than one founded on barbarian notions respecting the root and its impossible qualities.

Some species, however, have already received more suitable denominations. But they owe this distinction rather to their generic difference, than to a dislike of inexact definitions.

The imperfect knowledge that Linnæus had of the floral organs of the Salepines, induced him to enrol under the name of *Orchis*, the *Ophrydeans*, provided with a spur, more or less extended, and not contracted into a kind of bag. The Linnæan botanists adopted this mode of regarding them so far as to apply the term *Orchis* to a great number of plants, many of which had even been registered by Linnæus, as forming the genera *Satyrion* and *Limodorum*. Our contemporaries, however, Brown, Richard, Lindley, and others, having examined these plants more strictly, have been induced to dismember the old group, and to propose several new genera, formed at its expence. Thus M. Richard established the genus *Anacamptis*, the type of which is our *Orchis pyramidalis*, and the genus *Gymnadenia*, and others. The latter only is recognized by English botanists, and has been restricted,

† Ex. gr. *Thaumanthos*, *Mirafior*, *Marvel-flower*, &c.

by Brown, to the *Orchis conopsea*, a fragrant plant, resembling the *pyramidalis*. It has linear-lanceolate leaves and a palmate tuber. The anther-cells are perforated at the base, through which the *naked* oblong glands of the pollen-stalks appear. Hence its name, *Gymnadenia*, *bare-gland*. Another genus has been established by Brown, which comprehends two species of *Satyrium* † and the *Orchis bifolia*, under the name of *Habenaria*. All who have seen the Butterfly *Habenaria* must have remarked the *strap-like* spur which suggested the name of this genus.

From this genus another of the natural orders is named *Orchideæ*.

† From the Greek, *Saturion*, of *Dioscorides* (Book 3); another vile nickname now happily expunged.

It is discreditable to *Linnæus* that he assisted, by means of such terms, in associating debasing ideas with the fairest and most innocent of the Divine creations.

The beauty, fragrance, and nectar of a flower, along with a myriad of other realities, lead us to infer the existence of a supremely intelligent Archetype of Beauty, Grace, and Beneficence. A flower is the practical expression of the classic principle that urges us to invest the useful with the ethereal sweetness of the graceful. It exhibits its Author as loving to make creations, even of the most delicate beauty useful, that is good, to His creatures. To make the name of a flower, the companion of childhood, suggestive of impure emotion, is to violate the sanctities of Nature. Terms of this character are the reverse of suitable as means of introducing a knowledge of the floral graces to the young inquisitive mind, either of feminine or masculine mortality.

To this order belong the Bee, the Fly, and Spider Oprys—"Lady's Tresses"—Twayblade—Helleborine—Coral-root—Green Man-Ophrys (*Aceras* or *Hornless*)—Green musk-Ophrys (*Herminium* or *Bed-post*)—Goodyera—Liparis, and Lady's Slipper.

Of the foreign species, Humboldt says, they enliven the clefts of the wildest rocks, and the trunks of tropical trees, blackened by excess of heat. This form of vegetation, to which the *Vanilla* belongs, is distinguished by its bright green succulent leaves, and by its flowers of many colours, and strange and curious shape; sometimes resembling that of winged insects, and sometimes that of birds, which are attracted by the perfume of the honey-vessels. Such is their number and variety, that, to mention only a limited number, the entire life of a painter would be too short for the delineation of all the magnificent Orchideans, which adorn the recesses of the deep vallies of the Peruvian Andes.

"A predilection for this superbly flowering group of plants, has so increased, that the number cultivated in Europe, by the brothers Loddiges, in 1843, has been estimated at 2360 specimens. What a rich mine of the still unknown superb flowering Orchidæ the interior of Africa must contain, if it is well watered! While, in the temperate and cold zones, there are only "terrestrial" Orchidæ, growing on and close to the ground, tropical countries possess both forms—the terrestrial and parasitical—the latter of which [like our *Polypody*] grow on trees.

To the first named of these two divisions belong the tropical genera *Neottia*, *Cranichis*, and most of the *Habenarias*. We have also seen both forms growing on the plain-slopes of the Andes of Granada and Quito; *Masdevallia uniflora* (at about 10280 feet) *Cyrtorchilum flexuosum* (at about 10100 feet) belonging to the parasitic kind, or *Epidendreans*; and the *Altensteinia paleacea*, near Lloa Chiquito, at the foot of the volcano of Pichincha, belonging to the terrestrial *Orchidiae*." ¹

The almost animal-shape of the Orchidean or rather *Thaumanthean* blossoms is particularly striking also in the celebrated Torito of South America (*Anguloa grandifolia*); in another plant, also an *Anguloa*, to which a taste altogether foreign, as respects English habits of thought, has attached the Spanish expression of the Third Co-eternal of the Trinity; and in the antlike flower of the *Chiloglottis cornuta*. ²

The extraordinary species of the *Oncidia*, which are inhabitants of these sublime vallies, and of Mexico and the West Indies, have been rendered almost popular by the paradise of the intellectual Londoner, at Kew; one of the greatest of metropolitan blessings. The *Papilio* of Trinidad, must have attracted all eyes as a mirabella, or floral beauty-marvel.

¹ "Aspects of Nature" 2 Vol. 24. Slightly altered from Mrs. Sabine's translation.

² Hooker, *Flora Antarctica* 69. Humbolt. *Ibid*.

Another plant of this order, the *Renanthera coccinea*, has its habitat in the Eastern Peninsula where it climbs to the tops of the highest trees, and exhibits there a profusion of glowing flowers; so that a whole forest, without any injury to the trees which afford support to these *Epidendrea*s, "is clad in a mantle of the most brilliant gold, and the most intense scarlet; nor is this all, for when the dew of eve is forming, and the aroma, which the flowers give out, is arrested by the humid air, the sense is taken captive by the perfume, and all that fable ever feigned of "Araby the blest" is more than realized by this most delightful native of the east. The Chinese, who take more delight in ornamental plants, than perhaps any other nation on the face of the earth, train it round the cornices of the rooms, where its beautiful flowers hang in festoons half way down the sides, retaining their beauty in full perfection for a month or six weeks, and giving out in the evening and during the night an odour which defies imitation by the most skilful perfumer." This odour is very slightly narcotic; and gives to the Chinese a sensation of repose, at the close of his daily labours, that Mudie likened to that said to be enjoyed by those who are "lapt in Elysium."

Mr. Macintosh head gardener at Claremont, to the King of the Belgians, was the first who discovered a means of causing this *Renanthera* to bloom in Great Britain.

After trying various methods he covered the

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stem of the plant with moss, and kept it dripping with moisture" until his perseverance was rewarded by the appearance of its exquisite flowers.

In New Zealand the tropical form of the *Epidendrians* extends to forty five degrees South Latitude.

The fragrant *Vanilla* is obtained from a plant belonging to this order, *Vanilla aromatica*, which grows chiefly in the tropical portion of North America.

The *Narthecium ossifragum*, or *bone-breaking rod*, belongs to the order of rushes (*Juncæ*). The *Juncæ* inhabit almost all zones. They are alpine plants in the tropics, and in temperate and cold countries the marsh is their usual habitat. But few are found in dry spots.

Of the three genera, to which the extensive order of Jussieu has been restricted, twenty British species belong to the genus *Juncus*, or rush, six to that of the *Luzula*, † or wood rush, and but one—the Lancashire *Asphodel*, or Lancashire King's-spear—to that of the *Narthecium*. "It is remarkable," says Sir W. Hooker, that this last word "is an anagram of *Anthericum*, a genus with which Linnæus had united it."

† *Luzula* according to Smith is altered from *Lucciola*, a glow-worm; because the heads of the flowers wet with dew, and sparkling by moonlight, gave the elegant Italians an idea of those brilliant insects. Hooker Brit. Flora.

The Lancashire Bog-Asphodel, one of whose habitats I have already made known to you, is found also in bogs on Haldon Hills, and on a place called the Decoy, at Newton-Abbot. It grows about eight inches high and is easily recognized among the marsh-plants, by its yellow petals, green outside, and scarlet anthers. Its leaves are grass-shaped. It was believed to soften the bones of the cows and horses which feed upon it, hence its specific name, *ossifragum*. Sheep and swine refuse it, and the Swedes have said that it is noxious to the former animals. †

It is a native of Europe and of North America, and, though rare in these parts, is a common bog-plant in the north of England.

The *Pinguicula* belongs to an order (*Lentibulariæ*) which contains but two genera. The other genus is the *Utricularia* or Bladderwort, of which there are three species, and about five of the *Pinguicula*. The latter genus is called Butterwort, from the property which, according to Linnæus, the leaves of *P. Vulgaris* possess, of coagulating the milk of the rein deer.

If the fresh gathered leaves are put into the strainer through which warm milk from the rein deer is poured, and the milk is set by for a day or two to become acescent, it requires consistence, and tenacity; the whey does not separate, nor does the cream. In this state it is an

† Withering.

extremely grateful food, and as such is used by the inhabitants of the north of Sweden. Withering adds, on the authority of Mr. Hawkes, that the experiment does not succeed when tried with cows milk.

The account of M. de Jussieu, in D'Orbigny's *Dictionnaire Naturelle*, is somewhat similar. He states that the Laplanders and other people of the north make a pomatum of the leaves, which prevents the separation of the constituent parts of the milk and gives it a more agreeable taste. Herdsmen, he says—probably, like Withering, merely quoting Linnæus—make use of a decoction of the plant to cure cracks or chaps in the udders of cows. The decoction destroys lice, and a yellow tincture is made from it.

The plant is generally supposed injurious to sheep; occasioning the disease called the rot. "But it may be made a question whether the rot in sheep is so much owing to the vegetables in marshy grounds, as to a flat insect called a fluke (*Fasciola Hepatica*) which is found in these wet situations adhering to the stones and plants, and likewise in the livers and biliary ducts of sheep that are affected with the rot. From experiments made on purpose, and conducted with accuracy, it appears, that neither sheep, cows, horses, goats, nor swine, will feed upon this plant." †

† Withering, 1 Vol. 17. 4th. Ed.

The *Pinguicula Lusitanica* received its specific name from Linnæus. But, though this term would imply that it is peculiar to Portugal, it is perhaps quite as abundant in the marshes of the south west of France, as in those of the country which has the honor of giving it its specific name.¹

It is a very rare plant in this neighbourhood; but is frequently met with in other parts of Devonshire, and also in Cornwall, Dorsetshire, and Hampshire. "It is mostly confined to the west side of the kingdom, never I believe found in the east side, and rarely in the interior."² Macgillivray says that, it is more abundant in the Hebrides and north of Scotland than the vulgaris. It abounds also in Ireland, — in the south west of which country, another species, the *Grandiflora*, rare, both in this country and on the continent, is also found. Few plants exhibit a more beautiful appearance than a cluster of the latter when in full bloom, under a common frame. "It is a mass," continues Sir W. Hooker, of large deep and rich purple-coloured flowers, well contrasted with the pale but bright hue of the leaves."² In the south west of Ireland are found at least a dozen species belonging to what is called the Asturian type; from their being natives of the Asturias, a part of the north coast of Spain.

On the south east of the sister country, and south

1 Nouveau Dic. Cl. Nat.

2 Hooker's Brit. Flora.

west of England, the vegetation is intimately related to that of the opposite coasts of Normandy and Brittany; the coasts of which provinces were formerly a part of the ancient *Armoricanus tractus*; hence, their peculiar vegetation is said to belong to the *Armorican* type.

Armorica † was at last the ancient name of Brittany; the people of which district were of Celtic or British origin.

In the Highlands, sometimes on the Welsh and Cumberland mountains, and very rarely on those of Ireland, Scandinavian and Arctic plants are found, belonging to what is called the *Boreal* type. Of this type are the Icelandic Saxifrage (*Saxifraga Hirculus*), a very rare plant in this country, found in Berwickshire, Cheshire, Yorkshire and Queen's County; the Greenland Saxifrage (*S. caespitosa*) rare on Ben Nevis, Ben-na-bord (Aberdeenshire), at Brandon (Kerry), Twll du and Cwm Idwell (N. Wales); and the Norwegian Sandwort (*Arenaria Norvegica*), discovered at Unst, in the Shetland Isles, by an enthusiastic Naturalist, Thomas Edmonstone Jun., when only eleven years of age.

The relation of the British Flora to the Continental is sometimes indicated by the specific names of our plants; as in the instances of the *Pinguicula Lusitanica*,

† From the Celtic, *ar mor*, near the sea. Brittany proper, la Bretagne Bretonnante, according to Michelet, extends from Elven, Pontivy, Soudiac, and Chatelandren, to Cape Finisterre.

Sanicula Europæa, *Linaria Italica*, *Silene Italica*, *Erica Mediterranea*, *Juncus Balticus*, *Stachys Germanica*, *Valeriana Pyrenaica*, *Cochlearia Grælandica* and *Danica*, *Arenaria Norvegica*, *Calamagrostis Lapponica*, *Oxytropis Uralensis* &c.

Botanical research has not yet discovered a single plant peculiar to this country.

The predominating type in Britain is the Germanic, or that of central Europe. "All plants universally diffused in these isles are German." †

"All our corn-producing plants are exotics; natives of a warmer clime. Their original locality cannot be clearly defined, but there is no doubt that these grains accompanied the progress of agriculture from Egypt to Greece and were spread thence over Europe. Wheat and barley have been found growing wild in Persia, Mesopotamia, and on the banks of the Euphrates. A writer on this subject in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal* for 1827 arrives at the conclusion that the valley of the Jordan, the chain of Libanus, or the parts of Palestine and Syria which borders on Arabia, may with great probability be assigned to our cereals as their native country. Wheat is grown in great perfection in the dry hot summers of Spain. The summer temperature of Sicily the granary of Rome is 77d.; in the British Isles, it varies from 54d. to

† Forbes (*Geol. Survey*).

64d. In 1727 a small field of wheat near Edinburgh was so extraordinary a phenomenon as to attract the attention of the whole neighbourhood, and up to 1770 its cultivation was little extended. On the north of Ireland, where Mr. Wakefield thought it would be useless to introduce wheat, it is now extensively cultivated. ¹

The existence of Asturian Armorican and Scandinavian vegetation on our coasts has been adduced, along with geological analogies, to show that the British Isles once formed a portion of the European Continent.

But the presence of the foreign vegetation, exactly opposite its proper habitats, admits I think, of a more probable explanation.

In the year 1834 Mr. Milford, the banker and magistrate, of Exeter, ² to whom I am indebted for this communication, was taking a botanical ramble with his friend and connexion Mr. (now Sir W. C.) Trevelyan; and while searching for plants in the sandy district called the "Warren," between Sidmouth and Dawlish, being at the time about half a mile apart, they both discovered and gathered a considerable quantity of Columna's *Trichonema* which was growing in patches on the above mentioned

¹ Journal of Roy. Agric. Soc. Vol. XI. 1850.

² Author of a very entertaining work called "Peninsular Sketches," "Observations during a Spanish Tour," "and Norway and her Laplanders in 1841."

Sand-hill near the sea shore. It was the early spring and this plant was in full flower and so strikingly beautiful, that it must have been observed by the most careless observer.

After a careful examination they pronounced it to be *Ixia Bulbocodium*, a plant of the opposite channel islands, and were delighted, of course, to meet with apparently indigenous examples of a genus never before discovered on this side the English channel. The circumstance, Mr. Milford continues, got into the newspapers, and he received letters from distant botanists applying for dried specimens. Some time after he met Mr. Welland (Rector of Shillingford) a well known, experienced botanist, who had traversed and examined the plants on the Warren (which is about seven miles from Chudleigh) † from his youth. At first he was very sceptical as to the discovery of the plant in so well beaten a locality. But on being satisfied of its reality he accounted for it, in what way my friend considers the most reasonable way,—by concluding, that the bulb must have been brought from its proper habitat, in the Channel Islands, by a current of the ocean, and left by a tide on the sand.

Here then we have a recent instance of the naturalization, on our coast, of a foreign species, brought about by, I anticipate, the same means which has conveyed hither most, if not all our coast-born aliens; viz, a current of the ocean.

† Read "between Exmouth and Dawlish" on page 64.

It is generally admitted that the North American Pipewort (*Eriocaulon septangulare*) which is found in the Hebrides, and on the western Irish coast, and which is not found elsewhere in Europe, must have been brought thither by the Gulf Stream from the coast of its true native country. Let us see then by what regular existing means the Asturian and Scandinavian races have become naturalized on our northern and south western shores.

In the neighbourhood of Cape Finisterre a current arises, which is called Rennell's current; after Major Rennell of Chudleigh, who first accurately traced its course, and has left an account of it in his Investigation of the currents of the Atlantic Ocean. From this point it runs along the Galician and Asturian Coast, rendering the Bay of Biscay dangerous to mariners, and then strikes off, past Brest, with an observed velocity there of ninety miles per diem, and across the mouths of the English and Irish Channels to the southern coast of Munster; endangering in its way the navigation near the Scilly Islands. From the Munster coast it bends round to that of Connaught, and thence back into itself at Cape Finisterre.

This current, then, supplies a natural means for transporting the seeds of Asturian plants to the coasts of Munster and Connaught.

Mackay's Heath (*Erica Mackaii*) was discovered at Connemara, Connaught, by the gentleman whose name it

bears, in the same year that it was discovered on the Sierra del Peral in the Asturias. †

In like manner it is highly probable that the seeds of plants belonging to the Boreal type are conveyed, in the first instance, by the Arctic current, which joins the Gulf stream at Newfoundland; and, subsequently, by the latter current, which is about three hundred and sixty miles in breadth, to the shores of Britain.

No doubt is entertained by modern botanists that the Gulf stream has transported to Sky, Coll, a few of the neighbouring Hebrides, and to Connemara, the North American Pipewort; which is not found elsewhere in Europe. This is the only plant belonging to the Flora of these Isles which is not continental.

Sir William Hooker has observed that it is singular that the yellow marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga Hirculus*) which he has seen abundantly in Iceland, and which was found so plentifully by our Arctic American voyagers and travellers, should grow no further north in Britain than Berwickshire. This is a fact well worthy the attention not only the botanist but of the hydrographer. If straws show the course of a stream, plants may be made useful in ascertaining the course of a particular branch of an ocean-current.

† Hooker Brit. Flora. Mackay Flora Hib.

LETTER IV.

BOVEY HEATHFIELD.

Recent discovery of Celtic moulds at Knighton
—*Dr. Croker's account of the coal and clay deposits*
—*Ingedon.*

An interesting discovery has just been made at the clay-pits of Knighton. It was thought at first that fossil geology was about to receive a remarkable addition. But, after a more careful examination, the antique novelties must be consigned to the records of the antiquary.

At these clay-pits, the property of Mr. Davy of Knighton, two spineloid bodies have been found, which appear to be Celtic moulds. They were about six feet below the surface, and two feet above the "clay of commerce," in the sedimentary deposit of the Bovey Heathfield, and in the watershed of the river Teign; although, according

to Dr. Croker, the drift sand in which they were found is fifty feet above the present level of the river. Each half of a mould is a piece of canoe-shaped serpentine, exhibiting the markings of ornamental engraving, with darker shades where the molten liquid came into contact with the light blue serpentine.

They are similar, as respects their ancient use, to the bronze Celt mould, preserved in the British Museum.

Several others have been found in different parts of Britain, which you will find described in the *Archæological Journal* for December, 1849 (page 385.).

One of serpentine, for casting spear heads, was found in Dorsetshire; another of granite, near Amesbury, in Wiltshire; and a third in Anglesea.

The second and third are four-sided prisms. The granite prism has two cavities, engraved on two of its sides, for casting Celts of different sizes; and the other has cavities on all its four sides; three for casting the heads of spears or darts, and the fourth for casting hollow Celts. "Here," says the writer in the *Archæological Journal*, "we have a manifest indication, that the soldiers who used the spears or darts, also used the Celts."

The moulds found at Knighton, contain only one cavity, and that much obliterated.

One of them measures two feet in length, and ten inches and a half in circumference. The other is one foot

nine inches long, and eleven inches and a half in circumference. They remain in the possession of Mr. Davy, the proprietor of the potter's clay pits.

These pits are about a mile and a half from Chudleigh, at the further extremity of the village, down a lane on the left of the Ashburton road. This road bends round to the right, past another of these clay pits, to a part of Bovey Heathfield, which is usually called here, Knighton Common. A few yards past the clay-pit, on the same side, are some pools, on the surface of which floats the *Potamogeton natans*, a species of Pond-weed with "oblong egg-shaped" leaves; frequently met with in stagnant waters and slow streams.

These floating leaves often afford an agreeable shade to fish, and are the abode and food of the *Phalæna Potamogeton*. The roots are a favourite food of Swans. Mr. Stackhouse says, their love of this plant is such, that by harassing it in search of its succulent root during winter, a pair of them have almost destroyed it in the whole extent of nearly five acres of water,—which at times was completely matted over with it. †

In the water at the sides of these pools, thrives in abundance the Fragrant or Marsh St. John's Wort, (*Hypericum elodes*), which blooms here at the latter end of June and beginning of July. On the white

† Withering's British Plants.

clay at the same place grows the Rest-harrow (*Ononis spinosa*), the Trailing Tormantil, (*Tormentilla officinalis*), the cross-leaved and fine-leaved Heath, (*Erica tetralix* and *cinerea*), and the common Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*).

By the side of one of these pools I noticed a young King-Fern, (*Osmunda regalis*), which grows also in abundance on Teign-banks, near Farley Mill. .

Leaving the clay-pit and these pools on the right, the road leads past a branch-way to the other, or Bovey-Tracey road, and across a bridge over the Bovey or West Teign river, to the Haytor railway. Here the way on the left leads to Teigngrace; and that on the right, along the granite blocks of the railway, or tram-road, to the Bovey Potteries.

On each side of this granite-way there are an abundance of pools and marshes, which I have not explored; as I was not aware of their existence until the autumnal or marsh season was past. I have lately observed there, however, a profusion of Marsh Myrtle shrubs (*Myrica Gale*), and of the fragrant *Hypericum*. But only the buds of the former and the infant leaves of the latter are at this time (April) apparent.

On the way from Bovey-Tracey to the Potteries, last autumn, I noticed in a marsh on the left, very near them, the Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*). Two species of Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia* and *longifolia*), the

Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*), the *Anagallis tenella*, and the Tall Red Rattle (*Pedicularis palustris*), all grow in the first marshy place directly in the way from the Potteries to the Bovey-Tracey road from Knighton, mentioned in my first letter. Very near the Potteries, in the same direction, by the side of the water course, I remarked several plants of the Gipsy-wort (*Lycopus Europæus*). The *Pedicularis Sylvatica* is frequently met with on the Heathfield and on Haldon.

A peculiar odour pervades the atmosphere of the Potteries, which arises from the Bovey coal. The pits, whence this celebrated lignite is obtained, are near the workshops.

Dr. Croker,—to whose kindness I am indebted for the whole of the following geologic observations,—informs me, that the level of the Heathfield has been found to be an average height of fifty six feet above the low-water sea-level. Until within the last eighty eight years it was almost a swamp, containing a vast extent of decayed vegetable and some animal matter, about which the Will ð the Wisp used to flit in the autumn, in a most amusing manner. The ignis fatuus, † the medicinal leech, and that lazy

† The ignis fatuus is said to be caused by the formation of phosphuretted hydrogen in old morasses. "The vapour of an exceedingly volatile liquid compound of phosphorus with hydrogen, which is now and then produced with the gas itself," according to Professor Fownes, "takes fire when admitted to the air."

It has frequently been found that phosphuretted hydrogen in this not pure condition ignites on reaching the surface of water.

malady the ague, which once sorely afflicted the inhabitants of the Teign valley, have all disappeared since the formation of the Stover canal. The coal or lignite is found towards the northern margin of the Heathfield. The uppermost strata rise within a foot of the surface, under a sharp sand, intermixed with an ash-coloured clay. They underlie the latter towards the south, about one to five feet. The perpendicular thickness of these strata, including the beds of various coloured sandstone clays, is about eighty feet. The principal deposit takes a south east direction in the acticlinial line of the valley.

There is no doubt that the Bovey coal has a ligneous origin. It consists chiefly of the trunks of exogenous trees, and well marked appearances of branches and compressed vegetable matter. In one layer seeds have been found; and, within a few feet of the surface, in loose coal, a mass of fir cones of the *Pinus sylvestris*. There are various kinds of the coal, some charred, with a pulverulent charcoal, board coal, heavy black coal, highly bituminous and sometimes containing pyrites. Within the fissures of the coal and clay, adhering to the veins of coal, lumps of bright yellow retinasphalt are found, — so saturated with petroleum, that they burn like sealing-wax, emitting a very agreeable aromatic scent. Within the cavities of clay, various resins sometimes present themselves, similar to the resin of Highgate, near London. These give an odour on combustion, similar to the pine resins of commerce.

Of working coal, fifteen beds have been noted; the

K

main body composed of compact beds twenty four feet thick. In this coal perfectly formed crystals of quartz and felspar are frequently found embedded.

From the emission of sulphuretted hydrogen during combustion, it is not much used for domestic purposes. By exposure to the atmosphere, however, the lignite loses much of this poisonous gas.

Until lately it could be made to produce a red heat sufficient only for the first burning of the earthenware, which in this state is called "biscuit" ware. The fixing of the glaze or enamel has hitherto been produced by the white heat of the mineral coal of the north of England. † But now, by the perseverance and ingenuity of Messrs. Buller and Divett, the present proprietors of the Bovey pottery, the lignite can be made to afford a degree of white heat sufficiently high to vitrify the finest porcelain ware.

† Some years since, Mr. Radley of Newton informs me, an unsuccessful attempt was made to discover pit-coal, by boring.

The last bore of clay bears upon it the depth of 224 feet. A section of the mass, in Mr. Radley's collection, shows, at this great depth, a bluish white potter's clay with fragments of the lignite or Bovey coal. Sand and clay are interposed in thin layers throughout the whole mass of the Bovey-coal deposit, he adds, which indicate a long course of successive inundations. It has been erroneously stated, that Bovey Heathfield is the lowest land in Devon; a ridiculous assertion. The fall from Bovey Pottery to Jews' Bridge is 50 feet; and a short distance below that point the rivers Teign and Bovey run confluent to the sea.

This is to form one of the novelties, in the manufacture-department, of the exhibition at the Crystal Palace of the Industry of all Nations.

To the south of this lignite formation, partly superincumbent, is a great bog, from which arose the ignis fatuus of past days. Out of this bog have been taken many trees, from eighteen inches to two feet in diameter, much fir wood and some pine cones; but no traces of coal have been discovered therein. A question arises, were these deposits contemporaneous?—

The lignite and its accompanying deposit, the clay of the valley, are interspersed throughout the whole clay district (varying from a few inches to a foot in thickness) to the termination at Aller Mills, in Kingskerswell.

This coal formation is in the direction of the watershed of the Moreton valley;—the granitic formation, whence may have been derived the quartzose clays and the decomposed felspar; the clay—the riches of this valley. In the vicinity of Knighton this is deposited in beds inclining south east, where it meets at right angles with the clay and lignite from the watershed of the river Teign, and continues thence to Kingsteignton, and Aller Mills; constituting two independent deposits, probably of the same era.

There are quartzose, ferruginous, and felspar clays. The latter are used for the fine wares, the former for the

manufacture of common ware and tobacco pipes. The clay is worked in open pits of various depths, where it is cut into cubical lumps, and sent to various potteries.

“The form of the Bovey level is that of an heraldic lozenge. There must have been a great action to sever its once continuity of formation from side to side. This might have taken place when the vallies of the rivers Teign and Bovey were excavated by the force of waters, in a direction contrary to that of the general geological formation. The carbonaceous schist of Ugbrook Park—of Bickington to Buckfastleigh—the carboniferous lime of Kingsteignton and Highweek—the green sand at Knighton and Coldeast on the north of Bovey Heath, in a direct line with that of Haldon—all appear to have been separated without any displacement of their geologic bearings; all were carried on in the course taken by the mighty waters of the Teign and Bovey. Previous to that was the deposit of the Bovey coal. Contemplating the result we may ask, with Cuvier, “*Qui ne voit ici la merci de Dieu préparant d’avance dans le sien de la mer les nouvelles habitations des hommes?*”

From the outskirts of the clay deposit must now be noticed the argillaceous schist formation. Although this has clay as one of its chief constituents, it belongs to a different formation of an earlier era. These argillaceous shales may be traced from Knighton to Pitt, Stokelake, Chudleigh, Filleigh, and in the vale between Trusham and Whiteway. They present no particular geological character,

but exhibit a striking contrast, within a very short distance, as respects their floral productions, to those which so abound in the red argillaceous schist from Orencombe, near Whiteway House, to Ugbrook Park, in the *lime* district; where the subordinate beds of the clay slate re-appear.

In crossing the Heathfield, by means of the road at the entrance of Knighton, we have the three hills of Dartmoor (mentioned towards the end of my first letter) crowning the upland border at the extremity of the long expanse, in front,—the Hennock hills on the right, and those of Ingsdon on the left.

Conspicuous near the elevated site of the village of Hennock is Bot Tor,—that is, *round* tor. After the village, the other salient vivifiers of this part of the picture are, a villa on the right of “Bottor cottage,” called, Hazlewood, the residence of the Misses Warren, and a white fronted farm-house on the hillside below.

The manor of Ingsdon belonged formerly to a branch of the noble house of Beaumont,—a family connected by marriage with the royal blood of Plantagenet. It continued in the possession of a younger branch of the house of Beaumont until it passed with their heiress, in the reign of Edward IV, to the family of Pomeroy. From this family it came, in 1662 to Sir John Stawell; and afterwards by purchase to others, until it was bequeathed,

by Charles Hale Esq., to its present possessor Charles Hale Munro † Esq. The manorial residence, Ingsdon House, I have not yet had leisure to visit, but I am told that its site is sufficiently elevated to command the view of some interesting scenery.

† Whether the present proprietor of Ingsdon is at all connected with the ancient distinguished house of the "Munroes of Fowlis," I was unable to ascertain before this part of the work was required for the press.

The house or clan of Munro is said to be descended from a son of a Prince of Fermanagh, in Ireland, who came into Scotland, in 1025, from Fowlis, a place near "the Ro water;" whence he took his name, Donald a Bun-ro, which it appears his successor changed into Munro. Georgius de Munro, the first of this latter name, was confirmed in his lands by the parliament of Forfar, in 1062, on account of the part he took, in favor of Malcolm Canmore, against the usurper *Macbeth*.

The Tower of Fowlis is supposed to have been built by Donald, the 5th. Baron. From David, the second son of this chief, the Mac Donalds of Tarradale were descended, and the Mac Allans of Ferrin-Donald from his third son Allan. He died 1192.

George, 9th. Baron, married a daughter of Kenneth, Earl of Sutherland, by whom he had a son, who was slain at Halidon Hill. The father fell at Bannockburn.

Hugh, 12th. Baron, married a daughter of Keith, Marischall of Scotland, by whom he had a son, who was slain at Ballocknabroy, 1454.

These feudal Barons, having the power of life and death, continued until 1625-30, when the feudal power was swept away,

and, by way of compensation, they were created Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia.

Many of the Munroes have fallen in battle ; and one of the Baronets served with distinction under, and enjoyed the personal friendship of Gustavus Adolphus.

Sir Charles Munro, of Fowlis, is now the chief of the ancient house. ¹

"The Family of the Munroes of Fowlis," says the eminently pious Doddridge, in his "Account of some remarkable particulars" concerning them,—“is among the most ancient and honourable in the north of Scotland, and has generally been remarkable for a brave, martial, and heroic spirit. It is mentioned by Buchanan, with a memorable testimony,” as, “the Munroes which were esteemed as among the most valiant of the clans.” ² Doddridge adds that, he was in possession of a well attested list of officers, which this house has given to the military service, containing 3 Generals, 8 Colonels, 5 Lieut. Colonels, 11 Majors, and above 30 Captains; most of whom served in the thirty years war under Gustavus Adolphus. Sir Robert Munro, “21st. Baron Fowlis,” he says, was so eminent, that he was made Colonel of two Regiments at the same time—the one of horse, and the other of foot.” He died of wounds, received in crossing the Danube, and was buried at Ulm, March, 1633. His uncle, also named Robert, was appointed Major General of the Scots forces by Charles I, in 1641. “At the head of 14000 men he defeated 22000 of the Irish in Ulster, in 1644.” “The surprising, and taking of General Robert Munro was the first thing that brought General Monk into favour with the Parliament. His nephew Major General Sir George Munro succeeded him in the

¹ From Mss. in the possession of Charles Munro Esq. of Culrain and Fowlis, eldest son of the present Baronet.

² “Imprimis Fraserii, Munroli, hominum fortissimorum in illis gentibus familiarie.” Buchanan Hist. 17 Lib. 618.

command and defeated the Earl of Argyle in Scotland. After the Restoration he was made Lieutenant General and Commander in chief in Scotland." "Sir Robert, the 27th. Baron," was the intimate friend of the celebrated Colonel Gardiner. He sat in Parliament about thirty years. Among his papers, Doddridge states, there existed a copy of a letter from the elector Palatine to his envoy at London, in which the elector says that the excellent conduct of Sir Robert's regiment in Flanders would henceforward induce him to honor Scotchmen with particular regard. At the battle of Fontenoy Sir Robert, after ordering his men "to clap to the ground" stood up, with the colours behind him, and received the whole fire of the enemy; but escaped unhurt, to the surprise and astonishment of every body. He could easily lie down, he said, but he was so big that he could not get up again fast enough. At the battle of Falkirk, 1745-6, being deserted by his regiment, he defended himself with a half-pike against six of the rebels, until after killing two of his opponents, he was slain with his brother, Doctor Munro; who, with his servant, and the surgeon of the regiment, had rushed forward to defend him.

The present Baronet was an officer also,—in, if I remember rightly, H. M. 45th. Regiment.

Dr. Doddridge commends greatly the piety of several members of the house; one of whom, Sir John Munro, nicknamed "the Presbyterian mortar-piece," suffered a long imprisonment on account of his religious convictions. He died in 1696. He was grandfather of Sir Robert, who was slain at Falkirk.

LETTER V.

CHUDLEIGH.

*Etymology—Early History—Palace of Chudleigh
—Curious subsequent history from old parish-records.*

The author of "Reflections on Names and Places in Devonshire," tells us that the name of this town, Chudleigh, is derived from an oriental word, signifying an enigma. "*Chiderlie*," he says, is the same as Chudleigh. "*Chidah* is a Hebrew word for an intricate species of composition—a riddle—"something obscure"—and is derived from *Chud*, to propose a problem or enigma, or some exquisite and curious saying; which agrees with *chadad*, to sharpen, &c." Certainly, this is a very far-fetched explanation. There can be no doubt that the first part of the name in question, Chud, presents us with an enigma as respects its original signification. For, though there are no lack of ex-

planations, there is considerable difficulty in hitting the right one, in the perplexing obscurity which at present envelops it.

Chwid, in ancient British, means, a quick turn, and, *chwidaw*, to juggle. These meanings, taken in conjunction with what the foregoing quotation would have us believe, and also with the name of our town as vulgarly pronounced—Chidley,¹ would plainly suggest that this place was formerly the head-quarters of some antique conjurer.

Seriously, the possibility that this place may have been anciently remarkable for the practice of some Celtic jugglery, in connection with Druidism, would of itself render the solution of the question interesting, independently of what it might indicate, in addition, respecting the ancient inhabitants of the lea.²

I throw out this suggestion, however, without being able at present to admit the possibility.

In seeking a reason for the name of a particular locality, we must, of course, ascertain whether its designation corresponds to anything strikingly remarkable in its

1 In the old Parish account-book, it is written, Chydleggh, Chydleygh, Chydleige, Chudlighe, and as now printed.

2 *Lle* Celtic, *Ley* Anglo-Saxon, mean simply, land in a state of nature; according to Bosworth, a *terra inculta*. *Leigh*, (English, leech), is Gaelic for a physician.

natural position ; or to any extraordinary fact belonging to its history. And, if no term of the language of its ancient or modern occupiers corresponds to any reality of this order, we can only refer the name to any rude conception of which it may be exactly expressive. If the name therefore, has not arisen from a peculiarity connected with the history of the place — which I shall not anticipate by mentioning it now,—I think it probable that it may originally have been nothing more, than some such compound old British word as *Cyddyll'e joined-house-place*, or *Cydeulu*, † *joined family*.

Polwhele quotes some “etymologist” who says that, *Chud* is derived from the word *cudd*, a hiding place ; and the writer of Murray’s Hand-book of Devon, states, that “there is a town in Russia, on the Baltic, which probably, like its Devon namesake, has derived its name from the character of its neighbouring rocks. Erman, in his travels, describing this Chudleigh, remarks, the limestone rock has here the appearance of a great promontory ; on the east it is bounded by a deep ravine, cut by a rapid stream, which falls into the bay.”

Where Polwhele got his word *cudd* from, he does not say. There is no such word in Owen’s Welsh, or in Armstrong’s Gaelic Dictionary. Owen gives *cmz* (pronounced *kooth*) a shelter, and *cut* (that is, *kit*) a hovel.

† U, in these words, has the same sound as in the English word busy, and y, that of u, in cur.

There may be such a word as *cudd*, a hiding place, of which some one better informed than myself, may be able to point out the depository.

The caverns in Chudleigh Rock might certainly have been used as hiding places, in ancient times, and that one of them was used as a Celtic or British kitchen, and had been the residence of a Celtic family, appeared probable to Mr. Northmore, when he accompanied Dr. Buckland thither, in 1825.¹

The writer of the Hand-book, adduces, in support of his opinion, the Celtic word, *lech*, a flat rock; leaving the first syllable of the Russian (?) and British word unexplained. If I mistake not, this is an attempt to explain an old difficulty, by creating a new one. For if *leigh* be merely another form of *lech*, where are we to find the *flat* rocks which have occasioned the addition of this word to the names of several other places in this neighbourhood?

According to the enigmatical couplet of Queen Elizabeth, on the name of Rawleigh, the old pronunciation even of this syllable, as a final, is quite distinct from that of the English word *lea*.²

1 Blewitt's History of Torquay. Mr. N. says, in his communication, quoting Polwhele, "*cud* or *cwd* a cavity or shelter." Owen says, *cwb*, a concavity, and *cwd*, a projection, a bag.

2 "The bane of the stomach and word of disgrace
Is the name of the gentleman with a bold face."

It is possible that it may be only another way of writing, either the Anglo-Saxon *leag*, or the old British *lle*, the *ll* of which is pronounced like the *gl* of the Italians.

The latter writer also discovered another difficulty, —that of getting back to the principal inn of this town, from the, to me, not at all mazy lanes of Chudleigh. From this confession, and his strange account of so highly pictorial a locality—seen possibly during some drizzling dreary ill-humour-time in winter—I infer that this neighbourhood was altogether inappropriate to one who was evidently no conjurer.

Another etymologist, we learn from Polwhele, says, that “Chidley comes from Ceadwalla,” the name of a King of the West Saxons, — so that we may presume it was originally Cheadwallaley, then “Cheddeley” then Chidley. †

If it be derived at all from a man’s name, I should think it came, with greater possibility, from that of one Chude, mentioned in the *Estoire des Engles*—

† Polwhele says, that Chudleigh is in Domesday, *terra Comitum Moritoniensis, Chiderleia*. But, Dr. Oliver informs me, that he believes “the Chederlia in the Exeter Domesday (fol. 193), which belonged to the Earl of Mortain, to be the manor of Chudleigh, in Bickleigh parish, near Tiverton.”

“Ceolmer vint contre le e Chude
Od les Barons de Sumersete.”¹

As, however, I am getting tired of this enigmatical lea-name, I may presume that you are also,—and will therefore preserve your good opinion, by entering at once upon the history of Chudleigh.

The first mention that Dr. Oliver (*Eccles. Ant.*) could find of Chudleigh, occurs in a deed of Bishop Bartholomew, between the years 1161 and 1184; wherein he grants the profits arising from the barks of his woods at “Chedelega,” to the Lepar-house of St. Mary Magdalene, in Exeter.

The church forms the subject of a deed of John, Bishop of Exeter, between the years 1186 and 1191. It was dedicated to St. Martin, by Bishop Bronscombe, on the 6th. of November, 1259.²

Before the year 1291, “or about 1280-90,” “Cheddeley” is again mentioned in some pleadings in *quo warranto*, respecting the property of the Bishop of Exeter;³ and on the 8th. of July, 1282, Bishop Quivil provided the precentor of Exeter cathedral with a house and certain

1 Line 3168. This *Estoire* was composed about 1150. It begins with the arrival of Cerdic, (495) and ends with the death of William Rufus. *Monumenta Hist. Ant.*

2 Oliver, *Eccles. Ant.*

3 Dugdale *Monasticon*, 2 vol. 53.

lands at Ugbrook. The rectory of Chudleigh was annexed to the Precentorship. †

In 1308 the rental of the Bishops' manor here, according to Bishop Stapledon's register, was £ 17 : 4 : 5½.

From the same account it appears, that the value of a woodcock at this time was ½d.; since it was optional for the Bishop to receive at Xmas, either 12d. or 24 woodcocks.

In the same year he also describes "Chuddeleghe" as, "the new town;" from which it would appear, either that no town had existed on this spot, before 1308, or, that an old one had been rebuilt.

The church had been built then not quite fifty years. During this time, there was neither market nor fair. Both were obtained, by Bishop Stapledon, from Edward II, who began to reign in 1307.

From the fact, of another place of worship, called the chapel of St. Michael, having existed at this place in connection with an ancient palace of the Bishops of Exeter, it appeared to me probable, that this ancient residence and its chapel were built before the church, and might in fact have originated other habitations which increased so much, as to render the building of the former desirable,—and that afterwards more

† Oliver.

houses were rapidly added, so as to render the place worthy of being registered, in 1308, as a new *town*.

The highest authority, however, in the county, in relation to these points of antiquarian interest, the Rev. Dr. Oliver, informs me, that, he has no doubt that the parish or manor church is more ancient than the episcopal chapel of St. Michael which formerly existed at Place.

In 1308 a fulling mill existed, which paid a church rental of 20 shillings per annum.¹

Among the lands which Stapledon purchased towards the maintenance of his obit, he mentions a part of Chudleigh, which he calls "Waddene,"²—now Wadden Barton.

In 1447, Bishop Lacey appointed Edward Pyry, his valet, to be keeper of his park here, with a salary of 12d. a week.³

In 1496, Chudleigh manor, "Borough," and "Chalk Pitt," were to the see of the respective values of £ 47 : 17 : 10½—£ 16 : 3 : 5—and £ 13 : 6 : 8.⁴

On the 7th. of January, in the third year of the reign of Edward VI, that monarch granted a license under the great seal, to Bishop Veysey, to alienate the property, including the park, to Thomas Bridges Esq.⁵

1 Oliver. 2 Fol. 170 of his register, March, 1321. 3 Ibid.

4 Dugdale. Monast. 2 Vol. 525. 5 Oliver, Ib.

The ruins of the ancient palace of the Bishops of Exeter, which Polwhele says was called Place, still exist in an orchard belonging to a farm, called "Palace;" on the right of a road, near the southern extremity of the town, leading to "Palace Kiln."

"Chudleigh Palace was a favourite residence of the Bishops of Exeter before the Reformation. In its episcopal chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, many ordinations were held, and many acts of the Bishops performed."¹ Bishop Lacey died there Septr. 18th. 1445, in the reign of Henry VI; about four months after Lord Clifford's ancestor, the maternal grandson of Hotspur, was slain at St. Albans.

In the chapel of the Palace, this last mentioned Prelate admitted one Thomas Cornysse to the profession of a hermit.²

1 "In capella sive oratorio *juxta magnam Capellam* in manerio nostro de Chuddeleghe." Bishop Lacey's Register, 3 Vol. fol. 352. Communicated by the Rev. Dr. Oliver, to whose kindness, I owe also the following extracts:—

In Grandisson's Register, (1 Vol. f. 210) we find—Camera cancellarie maneri nostri de Chuddeleghe—and in the same Vol. (f. 108)—In Deambulatorio Manri nostri *ibidem*. In the 3rd. Volume of his register, we also find that, his Lordship collated to the Vicarage of Landege in Cornwall, William Caer, present—in vestibulo boreali Capelle Episcopalis de Chuddeleghe.

2 Oliver, ms.

It appears from the memoranda in the Parish account-book, † which commence in the 29th. year of Queen Elizabeth, that the affairs of the parish were managed at that time, by seven men, who are mentioned in this record, as “the seven men.” These seven wise men of the West, were annually chosen by the parishioners in the vestry, and had the disposition of all the parish revenues.

Two of them, called, “High Store Wardens,”—received and paid some portion of the parochial income.

Besides these we find that two others were selected, who were called “Young Men Wardens,” or Wardens of the “young mens’ store;” who also received and paid monies.

There are other wardens mentioned, who are described as “Wardens of our Lady’s Store.”

It does not appear that “The Seven Men” were great scribes; for the first account of Nicholas Cove and Robert Pratt, was made by a clerk, who was—“Pyde for wrytting of this Cownt—iiiiid.”

From other items, such as—“Recd. for our alle”—“making of malt”—“brewing of alle”—we learn that

† For the selection and transcription of these memoranda, I am greatly indebted to the intelligence and skill of an eminent solicitor in this neighbourhood, Charles Langley Esq.

these parochial worthies, brewed and sold ale on behalf of the parish; the produce probably of revenue paid in grain.

Another portion of the parish income arose from lending the parish "chyttel,"—"chetell or furnace," as it is elsewhere called.

Thus, in the account of Edward Langley and George Bowdon, in 1651, we find—

	£	s	d
Recd. for alle sold.....	3	0	11½
and, on the other side of the ac- } compt—Paid for making of malt }	0	1	8†
For brewing of ye alle	0	2	0
In 1665 Recd. for the breade and other } stuff which they gathered }	1	4	4
Item for their alle sold	3	9	4
In 1587 it appears that the Parish also sold bread and other things in the Church!			
Recd. for our bread and other } things sold in the Church..... }	1	6	8
Item for the Church Loffe	0	8	0

In 1584 we have, — "for our corn and money given;" and in 1593 appears the last "gathering" of oats and monies. The Parish rates were first made in 1595, and paid in oats and money.

† In the original, Roman numeral characters are used; as was then usual.

	£	s	d
In 1577 The rent of the Chettle was.....	0	5	0
In 1581 The "church chyttel" † was mended by Thomas Taverner for.....	0	3	0
In 1582 The parish received for the lone of the <i>parish</i> chittle.....	0	1	4
Item for the lone of the parish panne.....	0	1	2
In 1584 The "parish chittle" was lent for per annum.	0	4	0

† This word is probably derived from Armorican, *chwytel*, a hissing. The name of "the hissing cauldron" of ancient Chudleigh would then mean, the hisser. The Anglo-Saxon cognate appears to be *cetel* (v. *cytel*) a kettle, vulgarly pronounced *kittle*.

Jamieson says, chittle, to warble :—

The lintie *chittles* sad i the high tower wa

The wee bird's blythe whan the winters, awa."—

And Thomas Hood says,—"He *sings* on like a kettle, without taking any heed of the bars."

If this chyttle, or "chettle," was a brewing utensil which was kept on the ecclesiastical property in ancient days, before the building of the "new town," it is probable that the practice of "lending" it out on hire might have caused the place where it was kept, to be called, chyttle or chettle-place,—that is, Chyttleley. The old British cognate word is, *chedl*; this would make *Chedl-ley* or, as Dugdale quotes it, "Cheddeley."

The *lega* of "Chedelega," in the ancient deed, is, of course, the Latin equivalent of the Anglo-Saxon *leag*, a place.

The Tolls of the fairs and markets, appear to have formed a chief part of the parish revenue. In 1561, according to the accompt of "Nicholas Ball the market man," they amounted to £11 : 6 : 10.

Leaden tokens were used in the markets and fairs, probably as checks for the payment of the tolls. In the market mans' accounts there are frequent entries of "Led for tokens, and for striking same." In 1566—where an item appears "for the gathering of the market and weighing of yarn"—the name of the town is written, "Chydleygh."

The manners and customs of the inhabitants of Chudleigh, from the reign of Elizabeth to the second year of the Protectorate,—are exhibited in the following curious items:—

		£	s	d
1561	Paid for the constabules dinners..	0	1	0
	Carring of ye furreners before } the Justice at sondry times.... }	0	1	8
	A buke for the Rogacon wycke..	0	4	0
1565	Paid to organ player and for } other commodities for the par- } ish	1	10	8
	To the tything man for car- } ridge of Prisoners and Bannis- } ters †	1	12	10

† This is a word of frequent occurrence in the accounts. It is partly explained by an item in those of 1585. "William Lapthorne for carring of Bannisters and other vagarante persons 3s.

		£	s	d
1568	To the Borough of Chudleigh } towards the fifty dole }	0	3	4
	For the synginge bread	0	0	8
	Robert Pratt for mending of the } Kecken stool }	0	1	0
1569	Paid to the Players	0	1	4
	For writing of the Bookes for } your Loterie at 2 several times } and for writing of your pro- } sesse }	0	0	3
	For charges that was bestowed } on a woman that was carryed } in a barrow }	0	1	6

4d.;" and by another in 1609 "for charges for him that stole cloth in Barnabiis fair and for other Bannisters." The only word like it in Jamieson is, Bangister, which means, he says, a violent and disorderly person who regards no law but his own will. [i. e. One who deserves "a good *banging*."]'

Adieu fair Eskdaile up and down
Where my puir friends do dwell
The Bangister will ding them down
And will them sair compel

Border Minstrely i. 223

He also quotes from Maitland's Poems.

"For gif the sait of justice sall not stand
Then every wicked man at his awin hand
Sall him revenge as he sall think it best
Ilk bangeister " &c.—

The same authority says it means also, a braggart, a bully, and a loose woman,—and is derived from either bang, *tumultus*, and styr, *ferox*, or from *ban*, to strike, to kill.

		£	s	d
	Paid for at iiii several times for Runnagates which were putt to the cadge (hence, <i>Cadger</i>).... }	0	1	8
1570	X yards of Dowlais to make a pair of surplless }	0	8	4
	making said surples and men- ding old ones..... }	0	1	8
1572	Paid for exchange of the Com- munion Cuppe iiis. to Mr. Hute for silver putt to the Commu- nion Cuppe with 4d. for his charges }	0	1	9
	To Richard Smythe for mending of the church pickyic..... }	0	0	4
	To John Low the tything man for carrydge of Bannisters and others commanded to appear before the Justices for the whole year..... }	0	0	8
	Item to allowed for the debt of ye old Vicar for that he owed upon my Lady Courtenay's and Mr. Richard Wychhalses acct. }	0	2	4
	To Hardinge of Broadclist that came to be our clerk..... }	0	3	0
	To Edward Langley for streeke for the church..... }	0	0	9
1576	To one Rogers that gathered for the K. B..... }	0	1	0

		£	s	d
1576	To John Sperke for making of a cramp stocke and other things for the punishmente of Vaga- bonds and beggars in the stockes	0	3	8
1577	Paid for Bishop Jewell his book.	0	10	4
	Making of Maulte.....	0	4	0
	Brewing of Ale	0	3	0
	Recd. of the Chettle.....	0	5	0
	Paid for the charges of men of the parish being commanded to appear at the Archbishops visi- tation and for the book of Arti- cles	0	8	0
	Paid unto two scholars of Ox- ford by consent of the parish..	0	2	6
	For a Bouckenelle for the parish.	0	5	0
1580	To John Sparke for making of the skeling stoule and timber for the same	0	7	6
	For lechcraft and borde of Nichs. Warren servant to John Maurice.....	0	5	0
1582	To Robert Babbs wife of Lew- ton for curing of William Bur- netts hedde.....	0	2	0
1583	Paid to Mr. Richard Wichalse for Geneveye.....	1	3	4

		£	s	d
1583	To Michael Bobyshe for candle light to ring the bell at 4 o'clock in the morning.....	0	1	0
1584	Paid to Mr. Wichalse for that some of the parish did use unlawful games	0	4	0
1585	Paid to Master Corflet the preacher For carring of bannisters and other vagiren parsons some to the gayle and some to Bridewell	0	3	4
1589	Paid to Thos. Passmore by consent of the Psh. when he was robbed.	0	2	0
	A praycher the 23rd. day of June	0	1	8
	To 6 men for going to Greenaway after the Spaniards.....	0	2	0
	Bread for the Spaniards.....	0	0	10
1590	Lost by one piece of gold recd. by the young men wardens....	0	1	0
1591	<i>Paid to Wm. Lapthorne for whipping of a woman</i>	0	0	2
	John Macy for keeping the dogges from the church.....	0	0	6
1593	To Mr Higgs Vicker of St. Mary Church when he preached here	0	3	4
1594	Paid to John Guye paver for 684 yearde of pavement for the streets of the Borough of Chudleigh after 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. the yeard	4	5	6

		£	s	d
1594	John Soper for carring of sand } and stones for the same..... }	1	16	9
	Paid to Mr. Wood for the ap- } prentys of a boy by consent.... }	1	0	0
1595	Paid for wyne for the Justices...	0	1	8
1596	To Alice Stangecombe at sevl } times for keeping of one child } and <i>clensing</i> <i>Father Tooker and</i> } <i>Mother Bale</i> }	0	4	4
	Paid to one man that <i>played</i> } <i>with a Pyck at the young mens</i> } <i>ale</i> by consent }	0	2	0
	Paid to Mr. Pryce the 13th. day } of March by the hand of Mr. } Hunt for his earnest monies for } the Markets and Fayres purcha- } sed }	7	10	0
	Paid to Mr. Hore for writing of } the rate for the poor of the parish } and "rydinge twyse" to Mr. } Reynolds about the same..... }	0	2	0
1598	<i>For the use of £10 borrowed</i> } <i>of Wm. Coning for the Parish</i> }	1	0	0
1599	<i>Paid to Wm. Splatt for men-</i> } <i>ding the scolding stool</i> }	0	0	8
	Wm. Reeve for timber for the } same work }	0	1	0
	To Nicholas Bobbish for 1 quar- } ter for whipping out the Dogges } of the church }	0	0	10

		£	s	d
1600	Paide to Nicholas Thorne for entring the Chrstenins and bur- rials in the newe Register buke }	0	6	8
1601-2-3	Paid for reding of the towne leate from the hedd weare unto the <i>newe shout</i> at the Wester end of the Towne twice this 2 yeares their wages meat and drink..... }	0	14	8
	Paid for making of the newe shoute at the Wester Ende of the Towne for breaking of stones and carring of the same for car- ring of water to make mortar for carring of sande for Lyme for free stones we had at the place for workmens wages and there dyett as appeareth by our Bookes in pticular..... }	4	13	4
1605	Paid Robert Stoning for a "Khie" for the School House a lock for the organs and for mending a Pipe for the Chrysme Item for the Kings' Arms in the Church }	1	13	4
1606	To Henry Russel for mending the cucking stool }	0	1	3
	To Richard Beare and John Hel- lyer for stopping of the Fox holes }	0	13	4
1607	To Rich. Beare when the parish should have been distrained for the "Tenure in Capite" }	0	10	0

		£	s	d
1607	To Stoning for mending the Bull ring	} 0	2	0
	For the building of St. Sidwells' tower	} 0	5	0
	Paid to William Putt for the Bowling Green for a quarter ended Nov. 2nd. last	} 0	7	6
	Wm. Putt as parcel of the 12 £ to be paid for the composition for the Bowling Green.....	} 2	0	0
1609	Paid for whipping a man and carrin of him to the next tything	} 0	0	4
1614	To John Cleake to solicit our business in Chagford Court....	} 0	1	0
1620	Paid to Miss Hernaman for wine and sugar which was bestowed on the Corroneil.....	} 0	3	0
1630	Paid for ringing when my Lo. Bishop rode by	} 0	2	0
	To Hernaman for bringing word thereof	} 0	0	4
1633	Parish crock sold to Wm. Hellyer for.....	} 1	9	0
	To <i>interest for one year</i> on 20£..	1	12	0
1637	A pint of wyne was then sold at..	0	0	4
	Beere at the same time.....	0	0	10

		£	s	d
1637	For tolling the bell Lecture days	0	2	0
1640	Paid Benia Mabble for an Iron to putt the "hower glasse" in ..	0	2	4
1650	Paid Peter Clarke for setting up the Pillory, and other debts			
1651	To a Bannister souldier to Ashton	0	1	6

The parish church in the olden time, had four stores or altars:—St. Martin's, Jesus', the Blessed Virgin's, and St. Christopher's.¹ In one of them, perhaps Jesus', was a picture of the Holy Trinity, before which John Hert directed by his will that his body be buried. His will is dated 3rd. January, and was proved 8th. March, 1541-2.² In reference to the stores, I find the following items, in the accounts for 1564:—

	£	s	d
Young Men Wardens	4	8	3
Wardens to the High Store.....	4	0	8
Wardens of our Ladys' Store	3	13	2

The following entries also relate to matters ecclesiastical

1578	Paid to Mr. Clifford for a new Bible	1	5	4
1579	Paid for that defaulte was found for lack of the Tenne Commande- ments and other things in the Church	0	10	4

1 Oliver MS. 2 Ibid.

		£	s	d
1579	Charges of appearing before the	0	3	4
	Lord Bishop in Visitation.....			
	The sumler that assyted us to	0	10	4
	appear.....			
	Charges when we brought in	0	1	0
	our answer at the Visitation ...			
	Ffees of the Court	0	1	4
1582	For a new Bible for the Parish...	0	12	0

In 1582 the South Aisle and a new porch were added to the church, according to these accounts. In a will made by Wm. Renel 17th. April 1544 and proved at Exeter 18th. July following, 20s. were bequeathed to the byldynge of the new ambulatorye (aisle) of Chudleigh Church. †

In 1608 It was agreed that Beaton Bucketmaker and her companie shall be removed out of the church porch chamber before the next visitation of my Lord Bishop and that that chamber shall be no more lett to time without consent of Mr. Clifford, Mr. Estchurch, Mr. Putt, the Vicar, and others of the chiefest inhabitants of the Parish. In the preceding year there are items relating to the "bearing" and founding of the "great Bell."

		£	s	d
1615	There were received for — Two-	1	9	6
	penny couples and voluntarie			
	gifts			

† Oliver ms.

		£	s	d
1615	For the old Bible sold.....	0	10	0
	Paid for a Bible.....	2	6	8
	For a pulpit cloth	0	15	0
1628	Memorandum that yearly the Saxton Wm. Bailiffe is to have instead of the chambers over the churchyard.....	0	5	0
1637	Paid Thomas Pennington for casting the third Bell and for 68 pounds of metal at 14d. per pound	9	9	4
	Recd. for the old Communion Table	0	2	0
1640	Paid for binding the Bible and Book of Communion Prayer...	0	10	0

In 1657 The parishioners together with the 7 men having this day met and conferred together touching the procuring of and provision towards an orthodox and settled Minister have thereupon resolved as followeth—that Mr. Giles Inglett one of the 7 men be desired forthwith to write to Oxford to such of his acquaintance as he shall think fit the purpose aforesaid that when such a man as shall be thought fit shall be pitcht on, that the 7 men according to the power to them given, do cause such moneys as shall be requisite to be payed over towards his journey and preparation thereof hither.

The resolution further states that, he shall be paid at the rate of 80£ out of the tythes of the parish and an

augmentation out of the Fayres and Markets. Among the signatures is that of "Thomas Clifford."

Other matters of general as well as local interest will be found in the following—

		£	s	d
1585	For making of precepts about the Queen of Scots.....	0	0	9
1589	Ringling 17th. Nov.....	0	0	10
	For a prockly mation	0	1	0
1598	Paid to the Ringers on the Coronation day.....	0	5	0
	For a Parchment register book commanded to be boughte by the late plyament	1	1	0
1599	Paid to N. Thorne for wrytinge eight leaves in the palmt register book.....	0	2	0
1607	For ransoming a Captive out of Turkie	0	5	0
1614	To a man that came out of Turkie taken prisoner by the Moores	0	0	3
	To a Chaldean that dwelled at Jerusalem which has his passe collection under my L. Admiralls sealle by consent.....	0	1	1

1626	Receipts for this year 20£ all the rest is allowed by reason of the plague raging in Chudleigh and in lieu of all arrearages and payments due to the parishioners of Chudleigh for the markets and St. Matthews fayres &c. &c. &c. ended 12th. April last, past 1627.			
1633	Paid for the hier of a horse at 2 times to goe to Exon to carrie the monye gathered for Paules Church and to carrie the note for the register of the Church book	0	1	8
	The money collected for St. Paul's Church in London, according to a memorandum at the end of the book, signed by the Vicar, Robert Woolcombe, — appears to have been,	0	4	3
	The following relate to military affairs.			
1567	Paid for setting forth of soldgers	1	16	8
1575	Item for Bumbaste for the souldiers	0	1	4
	To the Cutler for dressing of the Armor	0	13	4
1578	To Thomas Cade for trening of the souldiers	0	16	0
	o			

		£	s	d
1580	Paid Greene for stocking of the } Caliver	9	1	10
	For 7 swords 7 sword girdles } and 7 daggers	1	6	8
	Powder Ist. July.....	0	6	8
	For 2 doz. of points to tye the } parish harness with	0	0	4
	2 lbs. of powder.....	0	2	8
	To Pittes for drying of the parish } gunpowder	0	0	6
	For a leather Bag to carry the } gunpowder	0	0	6
1584	For wine at the musters for the } Justices.....	0	3	0
	To the men that wore the Parish } Armor at Totnes	0	0	8
	To the man that had the com- } mission for archerie	0	3	4

In 1627 the parish armour "in Mr. Vaughan's custody," consisted of ten head-pieces and murrions, two Bills, one Tuck, three Callivers, four corsletts, and two muskets; "in Thomas Mawhys Custody, one Corslett pformed;" and in another persons custody, one musket pformed.

		£	s	d
1652	Mr. Woolcombe (the Vicar) for } his mare and saddle	5	10	0
	Roger Winsor for do. †.....	5	5	0

† It appears, by a subsequent entry, that these horses were bought for the services of the commonwealth. C. L.

	£	s	d
The Captain by consent.....	2	16	0
Fire and candles for the troop....	0	3	0

In 1651 we have, — That Bennett be allowed £ 4 : 10 : 0 for victuals sent by him by the Parishes order to Barton House at such times as the Garrison was kept there.

The perpetuity of the rectory of Chudleigh, with the obligation of paying £ 42 per annum to the Precentor of Exeter, was confirmed by Charles II., to the Lord Treasurer Clifford. †

The advowson of the Vicarage, was purchased by the parishioners, in the thirty fourth year of the reign of Charles II, (1683) of John Hunt, of Hams, in consideration of £160 taken out of the parish stock, and was conveyed to trustees by a deed of that date.

According to this deed a notice for a meeting of the parishioners, owning lands rated at £ 5 per annum, is to be published on two several Sundays, within four months after the avoidance of the Vicarage, and, at this meeting, a Vicar is to be chosen by the majority.

The earliest record of a meeting for electing a Vicar, appears in the parish books in 1689—"Thursday 3rd. Oct. then next" was appointed "for the electing of a

† Oliver.

minister, a Vicar of, and to the Vicarage and parochial Church of this Parish of Chudleigh in or att the Markett House by tenne of the clock in the forenoon and that notice of such Election be made and published in the Church or Chyard of Chudleigh upon Sunday the 22nd. Inst. and Sunday the 29th. after divine service." Signed by J. Coysh, Giles Inglett, George Bennett, James Rennell and others.

There have been several contested elections since this time. The present incumbent, who is also Rector of Ashcombe, is the Rev. Wilmot H. Palk, brother of Sir L. V. Palk, Bart. of Haldon House.

Since Dr. Oliver published the list of the Vicars, he has discovered, he informs me, that, John More should intervene between George Chudleigh and Benedict Woolcombe. For, in the will of Catherine Gould of Chudleigh, dated 21st. Feb. 1559-60, she gives, "unto John More, Vicar of Chudleigh, ii silver spones and xviid. in monye."

About a century after this last date, it was ordered, at a meeting of the seven men, that Humfrie Shapter Treasurer doe pay unto Mr. Stephen Bloye, minister of this place, the sum of £ 6 : 2 : 4 for towards his charges in pcuring the psentacion to the Vicaridge of this psh. from *Richard* late ptector &c.

In the preceding year (1658) the "seaven men" and the parishioners, at a meeting held for the purpose, "took into consideration the great want of an able and

paynfull Schoolmaster" and "agreed with one Mr. Pollexfen to come to keepe schoole here in Chudleigh." They promised to give him £13 : 6 : 8 for the first yeare, and to repayre the Schoolhouse and chamber adjoining in conveyent manner. Mr. Pollexfen on his part promised to be very careful and diligent in teaching those scholars which should be sent to him and for the consideration aforesaid to "teach and instruct in the best manner" he could "six poore mens' children of this psh," such as the seven men or any five of them in writing should appoint.

Accordingly, in 1659, we find that £3 : 11 : 8 was paid to Mr. Pollexfen "in Candlemas quarter last for teaching school."

The present successor of Mr. Pollexfen, Mr. Flood, receives a small endowment of not more than £5 : 0 : 0 per annum, left by Richard Eastchurch.

"The Grammar School of Chudleigh was founded by John Pynsent Esq. of Combe, in the parish of Croydon, Surrey, about the year 1668. Mr. Pynsent was born and educated in Chudleigh, and, having amassed an independence, was desirous of doing something for the education of the place of his birth."

Having promised to build a school-house and endow a mastership with £30 a year for ever, if a piece of ground suitable for the purpose were afforded him, — in consideration of eight pounds, an acre of

ground, part of the Play or Sporting Park, was conveyed to him, on which the present School-House was erected.

The School-House contains a residence for the master, and, as the founder intended, accomodation for boarders. The ground attached to the school-room was originally divided into an orchard and garden; but, subsequently, the orchard was converted into a play-ground, which is about half an acre in extent. Among the trustees then appointed, was Sir Thomas Clifford; at that time Comptroller and Treasurer of his Majesty's household, and, afterwards, Lord High Treasurer.

"Mr. Pynsent died on the 29th. of August 1668, and left sufficient assets to his executors to pay all his legacies. His executors were, however, so backward in paying the sums named in his will for charitable purposes, that the school-house was not completed. In consequence of which a commission was issued from the court of Chancery (22. Car. II.) appointing certain commissioners who sat at Lambeth; and they, on a full investigation of the matter, decreed that the house should be completed, a master appointed, and a rent charge of £ 30 per annum paid to the Master, half yearly, free from all deductions, out of Pynsent's estate at Combe.

The School was to be free for the inhabitants of the Parish of Chudleigh, and to be called Pynsent's Free School.

The master must be of good name, manners and teaching, and conformable to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England.¹ He is appointed by the majority of the trustees, whose full number is eleven.

On a tablet, in front of the old School-House, dated 1668, John Pynsent is said to have been of Lincoln's Inn, and "of this Pish."²

On a floor-stone on the south side of the Chancel of Chudleigh Church, is an inscription, from which it appears that the first Head Master of whom I can find

¹ Rev. George Moyle.

² For a short time after the death of Pynsent, some exhibitions appear to have been attached to the School:—

"John Pynsent, by his will, gave £ 100 for apprenticing twenty poor children of Croydon and Chudleigh, and to five poor boys of Chudleigh £ 3 each yearly for five years, (towards buying them books and clothes) to be taught at the free school in Chudleigh; but directed the payment should cease if the boys did not diligently attend their schooling, and frequent the Church every Lords' day; and to three of the said boys, that should be thought fit for the University, he gave £ 5 each for four years, for their maintenance at Cambridge.

It does not appear that there was any fund granted for the continuance of these exhibitions; and it is not probable the Testator intended they should be perpetual; as the boys were to be chosen by his executors, who of course were then living, and no regulations were given for the future appointment of any more boys after the three above mentioned. (C. Langley.)

any record, was a person of the name of Avant. The remains of two persons of this name, it states, rest here,—one, Stephen, formerly a Bachelor of Arts and Preacher of the Gospel (“*Evangelii Concionatoris*”) at Highweek; and the other, Philip, who is described as “*Vic. de Salcombe*,” and only son of the *Gymnasiarch* of Chudleigh (“*Gymnasiarchæ Chudliensis*”). The latter died Nov. 28th. 1696.

The floor-stone contains also a Greek and a Latin couplet, which are evidently addressed by a parent to his son. We may, therefore, infer that the learned *Gymnasiarch* at that time “fed on vital air.”

The Latin couplet is not above common-place. The Greek contains another version of an ancient and very graceful Greek thought. It may be thus translated:—

Thou diest, O thrice-desired! young, young—

[Love’s Heaven is thine:

In youth, God’s own beloved oft pass to life divine. †

Another “Master of the Grammar-School in this parish,” who was elected in 1750, and died in May 1774, lies in a tomb by the south wall of the church.

† Literally:—Thou diest, O thrice passionately longed for! young, young—thou hast found heaven:

Those whom God has loved, often depart young. (A phrase of Bion, another of Avant (?) and a thought of Menander).

The epitaph on his tomb-stone informs us that,—

The dreary wilds, the dreadful storms
To him were trifling cares,
Who did endure, serve Ashcombe cure
For more than fifty years. †

Notwithstanding the dreary wilds, the dreadful storms, and (as appears from this infelicitous rhymester) even “Ashcombe cure,”—he lived to the age of eighty five.

About eleven years before his death, it appeared, doubtless to the seven wise men, that an old man of seventy four, was not exactly the fittest person to be “Gymnasiarch.” Accordingly 14th. Nov. 1763 it was “ordered at Vestry that a proper enquiry be forthwith made into the nature and extent of Sir William Pynsent’s (?) grant, for keeping the Grammar School at Chudleigh, and that an opinion be taken whether the Rev. Mr. Ambrose Wilkins is entitled to the grant if it should appear that he is incapable of doing the duty of Schoolmaster.”

His successor, Mr. Hugo, who was appointed in March 1770, retained the appointment only eight months, when a Mr. Garrett became Head Master. The next Master the Rev. W. Pulling, rendered himself singular by his eccentricity. He always called his wife “the Lady;” and, when they visited any person, always sat with her on

† Polwhele has given an incorrect version of this curious epitaph.

the same chair. He published a volume of sermons, from the Danish of Balle, and some sonnets, dedicated to the Duke of Wellington.

The Rev. Joseph Cumming who was elected in 1820 added considerably to the "School-House." He built a spacious and lofty school-room and dormitory, and also a class-room for a second master. His successor the Rev. C. Edward-Collins, in consequence of the flourishing condition of the School, added another class-room for a third master.

The latter gentleman was an able contributor to the *Educational Times*, and the author of a pamphlet that was distinguished by a notice in the *Edinburgh Review*. He relinquished the mastership in 1850, when he succeeded to the estate of his uncle (a Deputy Lieutenant and magistrate of the county) at Trewardale, near Bodmin, Cornwall. The present Head Master is the Rev. George Moyle, late Scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford.

The school has enjoyed a high reputation for the better part of a century, and has produced many excellent scholars. I have already informed you that some of its pupils were near kinsmen of some of the most distinguished literary men in the country.

From the only items of general interest after the Protectorate, to the reign of George II, we learn that,

in 1697 "old money" was five shillings and two pence per ounce; and that, though trade was "very bad" during the year 1726-7, and the parish were obliged to pay much money to the "poor out of work and others," † they could afford to pay £2 : 2 : 0 "for two Hogsheads of Sider when the King (Geo. II) was proclaimed."

In 1730 the fairs and markets let for £70 — 1739, £65—1748, £45—1749, £42.

In 1748 Mr. J. R. Canrie was paid £6 to physick the poor for the year; and in 1749 The Seven Men were first chosen by ballot.

In 1807 a fire broke out at Chudleigh one Friday morning at eleven o'clock and spread in less than an hour over a considerable part of the town. The buildings were then principally covered with thatch, and the fire engine was consumed a few minutes after the flames became apparent. A strong wind blew them from one extremity of the town to the other, and carried destruction to those dwellings which, from their prior remoteness, had been considered safe, and in which, consequently, the most valuable effects had been deposited. The terrified inhabitants endeavoured to rescue some part of their property, but this was, in many instances, impracticable. What they saved at the hazard of their lives in one place, was burnt

† To Nicholas Tokill "towards his losses by the badness of trade" £18.

shortly afterwards, in another where it had been deemed most secure. The destruction became so general that the sufferers, exhausted by ineffectual exertions, gave themselves up to despair. Of more than three hundred houses of which the town was composed, about two thirds were destroyed.

The damage has been estimated at £80,000 ; to repair which a committee with Lord Clifford at its head, succeeded in obtaining £21,000 by means of subscriptions.

LETTER VI.

 BEAUTY'S POINT AND POET'S WOOD.

*Biddlecombe—its botany and geology—Ideford—
 Ashcombe — Chudleigh chimes — Red-head's Haunt —
 Beauty's point—Lewell—Poet's wood—Mazall Rock.*

We rejoice to day in all the golden, the green, and the azure fascinations of a lustrous morning of the ripe spring. I shall therefore abandon for the present all history, old and new, and invite you to a morning's revel with me over yonder hills and vallies, whilst they sparkle with delight in the embrace of the young sunbeams.

“Do you not hear yon soaring swallow sing?” — I mean the swallow whose graceful undulating flight now enlivens the air above the old Church-tower—

“Do you not hear yon soaring swallow sing?—
 Chirp, Chirp—in every note he seems to say
 Tis Spring!—Tis Spring!—
 Up boy, away!—
 Who'd stay at home to day?”—

I will suppose then that we have started not later than eight o'clock for the uplands on the south east of the town. I say, eight, in order that you may hear the loveliest of musical greetings on the hill above, and see Chudleigh at its most interesting hour, nine o'clock; when beauty appears, or ought to appear, in its simple and often more engaging robe de matin. An hour will give us time to note many attractions by the way and time to enjoy them.

The low iron gate on the left or north side of the church, is the entrance to our first path, a narrow path with the church-yard railing on one side, and, after passing a couple of cottages, a wall on the other. This wall supplies us with our first objects of botanical interest. †

The old walls in this neighbourhood are limestone;

† Since this sketch was written the masons have scooped out the ferns and covered the wall with rough cast. Both species, however, grow on the other old lime-stone walls in the neighbourhood; on the old walls of the school-house, on another at Waddon, and on the rocks there. On a wall round some farm-buildings at Lower Uppacott may be seen an abundance of *Ceterach*.

consequently, two kinds of fern are usually found growing on them,—the Ceterach, and the Wall-rue Spleenwort. The former has no English name, but still rejoices in what is said to be its old Arab one, which is supposed to be derived from *Chetherak*. I had an unsuccessful search for this Arabic term some time since, † and think it is probable that the name of this fern has a Celtic and not an Arabic origin; notwithstanding the remarkable affinity which Murray and others have discovered between the two languages.

Among a list of ancient British names of plants, published in 1633, at the end of Johnson's edition of Gerard, I find, *Cedor y wrach*, which means, *the joined or double rake*. This Celtic expression is exactly significant of the form of the Ceterach. The fern-rakes are joined as it were back to back; but the single prongs of the one alternate botanically with those of the other. "Master Robert Dauyes, of Guissaney, in Flintshire," the correspondent of Johnson, gives the name of another of the Filices, Horsetail (*Equisetum*), as the English equivalent of the ancient British term. But the form of this plant does not correspond at all to that signified by the Celtic words. It is not improbable, therefore, that he was wrong as respects the proper English name of the plant.

The transition from *Cedorwrach* to *Ceterach* is

† It appears like a compound of *shetr* or *chetr*, to cut, and *warak*, a leaf.

obviously easy, and the fact of a British fern having been sold in the shops in the time of Elizabeth under the strange name of *Ceterach* is more satisfactorily accounted for. It is found also frequently on old walls in France; where, doubtless, you have often seen it. According to Lamarck, ¹ it is operative and astringent, and has been used in spleen-disease. It is rare in Scotland and other places, but is frequently met with in limestone countries.

The other wall-fern (*Asplenium Ruta muraria*) is the *Doradille des murs* of France, and is also common on walls, rocks, and old buildings in Europe. It has been used in disorders of the lungs and *spleen*, whence its generic name, *Asplenium*. "The *Ruta muraria* or *Salvia Vitæ*," says Gerard, "is good for them that be troubled with paines or stitches in their sides," ² — a description of complaint not unfamiliar to those who are in the habit of reading his herbal. He tells us that "the blind practitioners" of his day taught that, "the sodden liver of a beast could be made like to a rawe liver" if it was "boiled again with *Ceterach*."

Passing another wall on the right, we come to what is now called the "Play Park;" the "Sporting-place" of olden times.

A park without trees you would say. It has trees

¹ Ency. Bot. (Fougeres.)

² The Herball. 1597.

in it, apparently, one day in the year. At Whitsuntide some young firs and oaks are cut down and planted therein; under the shade of whose rootless branches the national school-children are regaled with tea and cake, at the expense, and in the presence of, their more wealthy neighbours. † Whitsuntide is the gala-tide of Chudleigh.

And what of those who may enjoy it? You may ask, adding in the words of the Fraserian—the eloquent, brilliant, and warmhearted—“The human inhabitants of a range of scenery, are among its integral and most important parts.” I cannot describe the human tenantry of Chudleigh, as the Fraserian has so engagingly described those of Clovelly. I thank him for the record of his faith in their “simplicity and purity,” their “gracefulness, courtesy and intelligence,”—which seems descriptive rather of an *aurea secunda ætas*, than of a real experience. I am but too willing to accept his testimony as faithful; and trust, no portion of his social creed corresponds to this, from the pen of Lady Charlotte Bury—“All the pleasures of life lie in its illusions; and the best way to pass through it, is,—to be satisfied with the surfaces of things and of persons.”

Though I am not able, however, to describe any extraordinary social rarities, as peculiar only to this place, I may say, truly, that humanity here is free from an evil

† The condition of the school is, I am informed, very creditable to the master, Mr. Brown.

which greatly afflicts many in the neighbourhood of London. The post of constable here, is nearly a sinecure. House-robbery is almost an unknown atrocity ; and the most unfrequented and lonely spots are much safer places, than some London highways.

One of the most interesting sights here, to a Londoner, is that of a street full of respectably dressed men, of the "working class," returning from the parish church on a Sunday afternoon.

The latter circumstance, you may say, explains the ordinary moral condition of the place. We have however, a Roman Catholic chapel, and three dissenting chapels, which contribute also in some degree towards the production of so desirable a result. So long as Christian truths exercise, under Divine agency, a vivifying power over the moral conscience of an extraordinary character,—all creeds which contain the essentials of Christology (which of course differs widely from much Christian-ity), will advance powerfully the progress of the general morality of a nation.

It may be, that, as the great Apostle said, "Some indeed preach Christ of envy and strife." "What then ? notwithstanding, every way, Christ is preached : and I therein do rejoice ;" † though hating bitterly every kind of religious discord, and believing that the National Church

† Philipp. 15. 18.

of Britain could never become, to a separatist, worse than the pagan spouse, from whom St. Paul "commanded" his converts not to separate.

Every sterling character who leaves the Church of England, necessarily weakens thereby the reformatory power of its good members, and adds strength to the opponents of what he believes to be pure doctrines.

You will begin to perceive now, that there, are elements of discord, even in, what a Reverend Prebendary of Exeter has named, "Little Salem."

I shall, therefore, not attempt to excite these and another or two, by attempting a truthful picture after the model of the Clovelly landscape. In other respects we are of course as good as, and, may be, better, than our neighbours; and, as to ordinary comforts, if you were to paint any portion of the neighbouring picture-land, you would have some difficulty, judging by their general appearance, in finding the Fraserian's "half-starved seven-shillings-a-week labourer," to complete your foreground.

I will, however, take leave for the present of the "human inhabitants," and introduce you to my friend "Jack by the Hedge," which grows on the bank of the Play-park gate, amidst the wild mustard, speedwells, and geraniums. It is an acquaintance that will stick to you, as will be very evident to sensitive nostrils, if you admit him in company with salt, and bread and butter. The

leaves taste like garlick, whence its Latin name *Erysimum Alliaria*; or, according to Lindley, *Alliaria officinalis*. "Sauce Alone," as Gerard calls it, "is joined with garlick in name, not bicause it is like unto it in forme, but in smell." In his time people ate the "stamped leaves hereof, with salt fish for a sauce." Dr. Rutty says, "it cures old coughs, and, when boiled in water or oil, relieves the asthmatic."¹ It is easily recognized by its trowel-shaped saw-edged leaves, and white flowers; and by its taste.

On the other side of the same hedge-bank, at a later period of the year, I have seen a few plants of the Common Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*). The leaves of this plant give a grateful flavour to cakes, and the young stems and leaves are excellent when boiled. Its leaves and stalk are hairy, and the flowers purple.

Passing another wall with some Herb Robert (*Geranium Robertianum*) growing on the top, we arrive at the Vicarage. It is the residence of our curate, the son of a gallant officer (Lieutenant General Thomas). The Vicar resides at his rectory, at Ashcombe. Here we turn to the right. The lane in which we now stand, called "Wych" leads, towards the left, to Palace Mill² and Palace Quarry. In the other direction we shall find, at its extremity, Mill Street on the left, and the Dawlish road on the right. A

1 *Materia Medica* p 13.

2 Near the Mill are, *Symphytum officinale*, and *Bartsia odontites*.

few yards down the latter, is an old wall, on the left hand, on which hang the "graceful festoons" of the "Ivy-leaved Toad-flax" (*Linaria Cymbalaria*), a plant with small ivy-like leaves, and lilach-hued flowers. Lindley says, it has a warm cress-like flavour, and has been recommended as an antiscorbutic." † A few plants of the same species have, I perceive, lately established themselves on the opposite wall, in company with the Herb Robert, (so named after a botanical curator) and the Shining Crane's-bill (*Geranium lucidum*). We will not, however, stay to examine them, nor the hairy Bitter-cress (*Cardamine hirsuta*), which grows at the bottom of this, and other walls here,—but hasten over Bridgeland Bridge to the more inviting hedge-banks further on. The Bridge here, across Chudleigh brook, gives its name to the house and grounds on the right,—Bridgeland, the residence of G. Ferreira Esq., a gentleman who has contributed some very interesting pictures of Chudleigh scenery to the principal exhibitions of the metropolis. At the bottom of the wall, opposite the garden gate of Bridgeland, the botanical novice may become acquainted with the *Potentilla anserina*. Its roots in common with those of the Trailing Tormentil, contain a much larger proportion of tannic acid than the bark of the oak. The tannin in these roots will render a

† *Flora Medica* 505. He calls it "Ivy-leaved Snapdragon." De Candolle (*Bot. Gall.* 344) places it among the Snapdragon order or *Antirrhineæ*. He says, it is found everywhere on rocks and old walls. It may be seen on the old walls of Hampton Court Palace.

solution of peroxide of iron deep blue. The leaves of this *Potentilla*, dried and powdered, have been given with success in agues. The usual dose is a table-spoonful every three hours, between the fits. † On the other side of this wall on the banks of the stream, grows the *Petasites vulgaris*, which, according to Withering, "has larger leaves than any of our native plants." The lane on the left, just past this wall, leads through a cornfield on the right of its extremity, to Waddon Rocks and hamlet. We must stay at the right hedge-bank, at the entrance of this Waddon lane, to examine the *Moschatell* (*Adoxa Moschatellina*) an exceedingly interesting plant which grows here abundantly. It has five pale-green flowers, so arranged on the top of its flower-stalk, as to present the appearance of a floral *capital*. Four of the flowers form the sides of the capital, and the fifth face of the floral sculpture, with its eight pretty bright anther-studs, lies like the top of a fairy casket-cover on the tops of these side-flowers. Each side-flower has a five-cleft corolla, and ten stamens; but the crown-flower has only a four-cleft corolla, and eight stamens.

On the same bank with the *Adoxa*, grow the male Fern, the common shield fern, the *Galeobdolon luteum* (a nettle-like plant, with yellow flowers disposed in "whorls" around its stem), and the *Arum maculatum*, commonly called, "Lords and Ladies." The purple-topped spadix of the *Arum*, carefully enveloped below, and canopied above,

† Withering.

with its lowermost ring of germens, another of two-celled anthers, and a third ring of "apparently imperfect germens,"—is a very interesting object. The fresh root or "corm" is sharp, burning, and corrosive; but when dried it loses its causticity, and when reduced to a paste, like Cassava, it furnishes an agreeable food. It is an excellent substitute for bread-flour, and is prepared and sold under the name of Portland sago, by the people of Portland Isle and Weymouth. Lamarck says, that, the root is purgative and deterrent; that it has been used in asthma; and that it would also serve as soap. Martin Mathée, who wrote in 1663, says, that the women of Italy used to boil the ashes of the roots, and make use of this lixivial water as a cosmetic. The mixture, he says, made the skin wondrously white and shining, and was called Gersa.¹ The Arum abounds in this neighbourhood.

On the hedge-bank, opposite the Adoxa, is what Gerard calls a flower, "of a gallant blew colour made of fower small leaves apeece, standing orderly on the tops of the tender spriggie spraiies." Only one or two solitary flowers of this common Speedwell (*Veronica Chamædrys*) are to be met with in this neighbourhood, until the month of May, when, its heaven-blue corollas, like loving eyes, greet us everywhere.

1 " Ils font des racines d'Aron de l'eau et de lexive " &c. *Dica. Tr. Mat. Med.* 5 Tom 98.

2 Hooker and Loudon say its name is of doubtful origin. I have not space for the rejected conjectures of others, but I will

The two stamens of the Veronica, render the detection of the nine species of this neighbourhood easy. Proceeding down the Dawlish road we meet with one of them, the Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), in the streamlet at the foot of the hedge-bank on the left. It is a smooth oval-leaved plant, and a wholesome, antiscorbutic salad. Its flowers are blue, and appear late in May. On the same side grow the *Stellaria holostea*, *Scrophularia nodosa* and *acquatica*, *Ranunculus acris* (see page 46), the Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), the *Epilobium hirsutum* or Codlings and Cream,

add one of my own. In the Arabic and the Persian language, I see, by Richardson, there is a plant called, *Virunika*. This word is evidently compounded of *nikoo*, beautiful, and *Viroo*, remembrance. *Viroonika*, therefore, means, Beautiful-remembrance, and is but an oriental name for a forget-me-not. The *Veronica Chamædrys* has been often mistaken for the *Myosotis palustris*, by botanical novices.

Whether, or no; the name came to us originally from the Spanish-Arabian vocabulary, I have at present, no means of deciding. The Spaniards call the same plant *Veronica*; and they use this word to signify the representation of our Saviour's face on a handkerchief. When Christ was bearing his cross, a young woman, it was said, wiped his face with her handkerchief, which ever afterwards retained the divine likeness.

The feminine name, *Veronica*, appears to be the Latin form of the Greek *Pheronika*, victory-bearer; of which *Bernice* is the Macedonian and Latin contraction from the Doric form. *Chamædrys* means, ground-oak, a description borrowed from Dioscorides (3 Lib. 112), and by him, applied to the *Teucrium*; the leaves of which are oak-like. Of the absurd application of this term to the Speedwell, Gerard gives an account (page 531. Ed. 1st. 1597).

and other common plants. In the streamlet grows also the Marsh-wort or Water parsnep, (*Helosciadium nodiflorum*) which Withering declares to be excellent in cutaneous diseases. This plant is an almost invariable accompaniment of water-cress; from which it can be easily distinguished by its egg-shaped saw-edged leaflets, and by its very different taste. The *Stellaria* has oat-like buds, and its white bifid petals remind one of an oriental lady's trousers. By inverting the flower of the Figwort or *Scrophularia*, you will have a floral picture of a very elegant knight's helmet. We now arrive in sight of a stile leading to a very steep oak-crowned upland called Tower Hill. Near the last two trees here, on the left, grow several tufts of a fern, that is an uncommon variety of the "Close-leaved prickly Shield-fern." *Aspidium lonchitidoides* is the name that has been bestowed on it. It has another long Greek name, but one such is enough at a time. On the oak-stumps opposite this fern, grows another, the "Polypody of the oak" (*Polypodium vulgare*). Just past the stile on the left hedge-bank, at the end of May, grows the Milk-wort (*Polygala vulgaris*). It has a beautifully *crested* flower, small, narrow, lance-shaped leaves, and a bitter taste. †

† *Polygala* means, *much milk*; so called by Dioscorides (4 Book 142), from its supposed virtues as a mother's-milk producer. Pliny (27 L 96) attributes to it the same property. Dr. Archer has praised it extravagantly in *cynanche trachealis*. (Lindley Flor. Med. 125). Sir J. E. Smith, according to Loudon, found a quarter of a pint of its infusion, taken daily, good in catarrhal

By the side of the right hedge-bank, up the ascent of Tower Hill, grow,—the Betony (*Betonica officinalis*)—the *Myosotis arvensis*—Sheep's scabious (*Jasione Montana*)—the Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), used in heart-disease to lower the action of the organ¹—the Red Campion (*Lychnis dioica*), and in August the common Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium*² *Cannabinum*), Yellow Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), and the *Achillea Ptarmica*. By the side of the path through the wood-covered part of Tower Hill, grow the only British Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus non-scriptus*), the fresh roots of which are poisonous—the Enchanters' night-shade (*Circæa Lutetiana*) and the Earth-nut (*Bunium*³ *flexuosum*). The last has a plain, many-cleft, finely-cut leaf; and its many stalked head of small

cough. Chaumeton (*Flore Medicale*) also speaks of its success in decreasing cough when mixed with milk. He says, Von Swieten and Collin MM. Coste and Villemet, are reported to have used it successfully in chest disease, (consumption, especially), when there was no inflammation of serous membrane. It is hurtful in pleurisy and peripneumonia, he adds, and from its agreeable odour, has been used as tea.

1 I am informed by Mr. Yarde, of Chudleigh, that a decoction of this plant, is used by old nurses, in this neighbourhood, as a cure for dropsy. As the indiscriminate use of the plant has been attended with fatal consequences, he presumes that the active properties must have been dissipated in boiling.

2 Useful as an emetic and a purge. The Dutch peasants, Withering adds, take it as an alterative and antiscorbutic. Named from Eupator, a surname of Mithridates, who first brought the plant into use.

3 From *bounos*, a hill, its usual habitat.,

white flowers present the usual umbrella-like appearance of the Umbellifers.

Though I have given you some account of the botany of this hill, it is not my intention to leave the road. Continuing then our walk, we reach some farm-premises on the right. This place is called Greyley. The limestone rock here abounds with the white-violet. Biddlecombe is our next halting-place. Here we have the Ideford road and a road to Ugbrook Park on our right, with Biddlecombe wood between them. In this wood, in June, you will find the Butterfly *Habenaria*, (*Habenaria bifolia*)¹ in flower, and on the woodside of the Park road, in September, the Fragrant Lady's Tresses (*Neottia spiralis*), *Knautia arvensis*, and the wild Thyme.

At Biddlecombe² the Dawlish road winds round to the left. The first turning on the right, down this road from the crossways, leads down to Dunscombe; an excellent example of a Devonshire combe. A combe is a valley, one of the extremities of which is closed up by a hill.³ Higher Dunscombe is approached by a lane on the same

¹ See p. 54.

² *Bid* is Celtic for, hedge.

³ It takes therefore, at least, three hills to make a combe; and, according to a learned friend of mine, "two hills to make a vale." A person of the name of Hill observed to the present Rector of Longton, Staffordshire, Dr. Vale (whose house was sacked and fired by the rioters in 1842, in consequence of his sturdy resistance to their demands), that *Hills* were very superior in point of natural rank to *Vales*. "I beg your pardon, Sir," replied the Rev. Doctor, "it takes two Hills to make a Vale."

side nearly at the top of a road. Opposite this lane is another leading to Waddon, and, just past the latter, a third lane, which leads by the side of a "goyle" or gully to Poorcombe. The Chudleigh portion of the Dawlish road terminates at "Beggar's Bush;" where it crosses a road leading, towards the right, to Kingsteignton and Newton-Abbot; and, in the opposite direction—after passing roads to Teignmouth and Mamhead—to Exeter. Mamhead is the residence of Sir Robert Newman. On the left of this very elevated part of the road, between Beggar's Bush and Mamhead, the scenery, which includes the valley of the Exe, is of the most interesting character. A walk here about the middle of May, when a profusion of fragrant furze blooms, growing on both sides of the road, renders this part of it truly a golden way,—is one of the rarest of our natural luxuries. From the side of a rivulet here, on the right, I obtained the Lesser Scull-cap (*Scutellaria minor*). The continuation of the Dawlish road is opposite Beggar's Bush turnpike. A few yards down it on the right, a beaten path appears, leading up the bank-side to the hills (Great Haldon) above. From these hills Chudleigh appears like a lonely village, buried amidst a wild hilly moorland. The distance and the elevation lend a romantic wildness to the landscape, which a nearer approach to the many, well cultivated, though steep, uplands soon dissipates. When the purple heath and dwarf furze (*Ulex nanus*) are in bloom, this part of Haldon makes a gorgeous appearance in its regal garniture; and reminds us, in Apostolic phrase, of the "more abundant comeliness" with which

the Divinity has glorified these barren, and in the land-owner's eye, "uncomely" places.

"How full of love must He
In all things be,
Who strews with beauty e'en the waste and wold,
Who gives the moorland lark
His purple heath-bower dark;
The mountain bee, his wilderness of gold."

In the months of August and September that curious parasite the Lesser Dodder (*Cuscuta Epithymum*) may be found here, in flower, twining round this dwarf furze.¹

Ashcombe may be approached by means of the first lane on the left, down the Dawlish road from Beggar's Bush. It is about three miles from Chudleigh.² It is

1 Called, in Devonshire, *fuzz*. A gentleman in this part of England, having told a labourer on his estate, to cut down and bring to his house a cart-load of furze, saw him, with considerable astonishment and anger, arrive some time afterwards, with a load of young *firs*, part of a valuable plantation.

2 Near Ashcombe, a tragical occurrence took place, of which most of the following account—apparently part fact, and part legend—has been communicated to me recently.—About 60 years ago, a thatcher, named Collings, lived at Ashcombe. He was a woman-hater; but then, he was a madman. He might have been deceived by some rustic fair, and have hated all women for the fault of one. His ferocity at last found an object in a poor woman who lived, it is said, at a farm on the border of Grammercombe moor, Ashcombe. She was riding one day to fetch her little

not my intention, however, to proceed thither to day, but to conduct you along the lane which is called here, Ideford road. Between the crossway and Biddlecombe quarry, you will find most of the common and some of the uncommon plants that grow about here. Besides others already mentioned, I have observed here, the Black-stalked Spleen-

daughter from Waddon, having promised to be at the hamlet about seven o'clock. But, before that time, the child, who was watching for her poor mother with all the eagerness of childhood, burst into a cry, and said that, she had seen her mother in the sky "all bloody." This apparently supernatural intimation startled the people at the Waddon "farm-house," and seven and eight o'clock having passed away, and no signs of her coming being apparent, they hastened to Ashcombe in a state of superstitious apprehension, more easy to conceive than to describe. During this time the thatcher had pulled the child's mother from her horse, in Colly lane, and murdered her, in a manner too horrible for description, near an ash-pollard which grew on the Rixtail (or west) side of the lane. The pollard was pointed out to one of my informants by the late Mr. Narramore of Venn (Teignmouth). The first fearful announcement of the tragedy, was made by the appearance of her bleeding heart; which the madman had cut out with his spar-hook, and placed, one account states, on an iron spike of Ashcombe church-gate; another,—on a branch of a tree near a rock, belonging to the great-grandfather of a person now residing at Ashcombe. The murderer was found in the church, and was executed at Exeter. Some heavy gyves, made purposely for him, are still preserved, and called, 'Collings' gyves.'

A sprig of thyme, it is said, fell out of the poor woman's bosom during the murder, and grew on the spot, long sacredly revered by her neighbours.

wort (*Asplenium Adiantum nigrum*) a very elegant fern—The Wood Germander or Wood Sage (*Teucrium Scorodonia*) a substitute for hops—Lamb's Lettuce (*Fedia olitoria*)—The Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)—The common Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*)—The common Avena (*Geum urbanum*)—and the common St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). Near the quarry, on the left hedge-bank, I have counted fifty-five plants of the Early purple Orchis, growing in one cluster.

Biddlecombe quarry is one of carbonaceous schist, of a ferruginous complexion, with occasional grey granitic patches, consisting chiefly of mica, a little quartz, and no felspar. † The bitter Winter-cress (*Barbarea vulgaris*) grows here, and is easily recognized by its bitter taste, dark green leaves, and yellow flowers.

At this quarry the Ideford road unites with another from the village of Gappah. I propose to take you along

† The carbonaceous schist of Devon consists chiefly of sandstone and shales; respecting the geological age of which a difference of opinion prevails. It occupies a district of great extent. In south Devon it can be traced upwards from Ivy Bridge to Ashburton, and Ugbrook Park. In the course of the river Teign, in conjunction with the same formation connected with this system are,—Greenstone near Crocombe Bridge—Toadstone (of Derbyshire) near Stickwick—and a series of sandstones, shales, and grauwacke at Trusham; where also may be seen the common gritty grauwacke, and the fine slate grauwacke. Sometimes there appear traces of carbonized and fossil plants in the schist, which are well developed at Biddlecombe. (Dr. Croker).

the latter, to "Beauty's Point;" one of the loveliest picture-spots in the world.

On the right, in this direction, we find a stile at the top of the steep ascent, called Tower Hill; opposite to which, is a path leading to the Ideford † road.

As it is now nearly nine o'clock, we pause at the second field-gate past this stile, to listen to the melody that will reach us here, any fine calm morning at this time, from the old clock-tower of Chudleigh. The top of the gate-post on our left, will serve you for a seat; as it has often served me, when I have been able to reach the gate in time for what seems like, the hymn of the valley. Here you will have one of the best views of the town. From this point, its white dwellings, including some pretty villas, appears, at this hour, to repose in peace and brightness in the valley below, surrounded, as Polwhele says, by an amphitheatre of hills. The town is built on an eminence, in, what the topographers call, the Vale of Teign. Behind it, from this gate-post observatory, rise the Chudleigh hills; behind them appear the much higher hills of Hennock and Canonteign, and, on the left, in the distance, the sharper and bolder granite-features of those of Dartmoor. By

† Ideford is about two miles from Chudleigh. Beyond the village are the hills called Little Haldon; from the top of which the landscape—containing Teignmouth, Dawlish, and Exmouth, and the vast expanse of sea, with an occasional vessel on its bosom—is one of considerable beauty and grandeur.

getting on the hedge-bank, taking care not to tread on the honeysuckle and wood-germander at its extremity, you will be able to see, also, the hills of Great Haldon on the right; hidden, at this spot, by the foliage of the enclosure.

In front, below the skirt of Canonteign woods, is the "Happy Valley Glen," mentioned in my second letter; and, on the right of Canonteign House, the gables of "old Canonteign"—the most interesting specimen of old architecture in the neighbourhood—appear above the foliage.

Now listen! From the ancient church-tower issue the sounds that tell us that, another hour of life has passed away for ever from the thousand millions of earth, and the sweetest of matin-strains follow; to which it may not be presumptuous to supply a poetical expression.

CHUDLEIGH CHIMES.

At every morning's glowing prime,
Give to God the time;
And at evetide's holy chime,
Think of God sublime.

Come, happy spirit! loving son!
Christ awaiteth thee in Heaven;
Erring spirit!—homeless one!
Come! come, and be forgiven.

All forgiven:
Aye forgiven.

At every dayspring's rosy prime,
Give to God the time;
And at midday's holy chime,
Pray to God sublime.

Come, angel-spirits hover nigh;
 Love divine awaits each sigh;
 All things bid thee fix on high,
 Faith's fond heart—Hope's bright eye.

These tunes, however, have an interest of another kind. In the latter (York tune) one perhaps of Heaven's immortals—for he was a sufferer for conscience sake—though dead, yet speaketh. Of his earthly honours, save that he was the author of this divine strain, I shall add but little more. Enough: he was the father of MILTON.

The first tune (St. David's) is by old Ravenscroft.¹ Chudleigh bells play them thrice, in succession, with an interlude of six notes after "St. David's."²

Before we leave this field-gate you may remark, "one of the most important, although utterly neglected, of our food plants for domestic animals,"³ growing on the right hedge-bank inside this field. There are about a dozen plants of the Cow-parsnep (*Heracleum Sphondylium Herculean back-bone-joint*) here; a plant frequently met with, but not always in so good a place for a descriptive means of detection. On its purplish stalk, furrowed on the upper side, it has two pair of sinuous leaflets, and a trident-topped terminal one. The appearance of the two pair of leaflets gave rise to its specific name.

1 He died in 1640. He was admitted to the degree of Mus. Bac. by the University of Cambridge when a mere youth. His work, containing 98 tunes, including John Milton's, was published in 1621.

2 They are slightly varied from the originals to suit the bells.

3 Macgillivray's notes to Withering.

At the end of the line of beech trees on our left, where the bank is easier of ascent, we shall find, just inside the park-paling, "Castle Dyke," or the "Danish Encampment," as it is usually called here. Dr. Bennett, Bishop of Cloyne, (Lysons Vol. 2) believed it to be British, and says that, it is a part of a chain of fortified camps, extending along the coast, and connected with the Roman road.

It is a circular camp, about six and a half acres in extent; but Lysons believed that, if it had been completed, it would have occupied thrice its present area.¹

Take care where you set your foot here, for there are treasures near your feet. Near this beech-tree are three patches of the "Tea of Europe," as Frank, the celebrated German physician, in a treatise upon it, has called the *Veronica officinalis*.² It is a shrub-leaved Speedwell, and may be recognized by its dark green leaves and bitter taste. Its pale lilac flower appears here, and in Ugbrook Park, in June. Much further on, near the Park-gate, is a stile on our right, leading down "Mount Pleasant" to Poet's

¹ *Archæologia* 19 Vol 311.

² It has been lauded to the skies by Hoffman and Frank on account of its efficacy in various maladies of the chest, colds, cough, asthma, and pulmonary consumption. Lamarck says, the Remembrance-Speedwell (*V. Chamædrys*) has the same properties, and is a better substitute for tea. Withering also prefers the latter; which, Professor Martyn says, is less astringent and more grateful (London). I have ascertained that *V. agrestis* has also an agreeable slightly aromatic flavour and that *V. anagallis* is unpleasant. Sulphate of iron shows that, an infusion of *V. anagallis* is stronger in acid than that of either *V. agrestis*, or *polita*.

Wood. Opposite the Park gate is another gate, which opens into the "Riding Park," facing Red Head's Haunt. Opposite the latter gate, inside, is a ridge composed chiefly of the roots of a row of old elm trees, from which the soil has in part crumbled away. A superstitious person, who knew the tragic legend associated with this spot, looking over the gate in the dusk of the evening, or on a moonlight night, would imagine that something like a baboon-faced hobgoblin was sitting between the first two trees, keeping watch, as it were, over a spot that had become the possession of dark spirits. A nearer approach, however, shows that the object is nothing but a grotesque portion of decayed trunk. A little further, to the left, is an opening, in front of which is another old tree, from both sides of whose base rise two stout, antique ivy stems. On the right of this tree, only visible to those who descend into the hollow, some masonry, partly moss-covered, becomes apparent. This is said to indicate the site of a cottage which once stood here by the side of the old public road. This cottage was then occupied by persons who were engaged in the disposal of contraband goods, and during one of their quarrels, one of them was struck so violently on the head, that he was either killed on the spot or died soon afterwards. Some say the murder took place in the copse, and that the victim was either a pedlar or a smuggler. After his decease he haunted the spot with a red or blood-coloured handkerchief bound round his temples; how long, I am not informed. Whether Red-head ever looks now from behind the hobgoblin tree, or sits there, kicking away the earth

from the queer-looking roots of the old elms, remains also for some adventurous storyan to discover. The only plant of rarer interest, which grows at Red-Head's Haunt, is the *Veronica montana*. At the bottom of the glade, on the right of the elm-ridge, at the beginning of June, the lovely Pimpernel-Loosestrife (*Lysimachia nemorum*) exhibits its golden petals. The prospect from this legend-haunted spot, down the road on the left of the park-upland, borders on the magnificent, chiefly from the great elevation presented here by the Dartmoor hills. Opposite an ash tree on this side is an opening on the other side of the Riding Park, through which Woodhouse hill appears. Towards this opening the trees opposite converge, so as to indicate the whereabouts of Beauty's Point. Here then we cross the Riding Park and passing under the trees, emerge upon a scene superb in loveliness. Before us, rising about three hundred feet from the bottom of the intervening Chudleigh Glen, and towering above the cloud-like cumuli of green foliage, the grand, grey, perpendicular brow of the Pixies' Rock looks towards its peers, the ancient tors of Dartmoor. From the bottom of the glen, far beneath, the roar of the young torrent comes up as it dashes over the limestone blocks and down the falls; beneath many varieties of leaves which, at this height, wholly hide its waters. Whilst we gaze, one of its many jackdaws dives below from the rock-side. Across this deep gulf, through an opening on the right, formed by the trees which crown the rocks on both sides,—the ancient church-tower and some of the white dwellings of Chudleigh appear. They are seated on an

eminence that is nearly on a level with the tops of some trunk-shorn elms that rise from the side of the glen. Just below the view of Chudleigh, on the glen-side, placed there as it were to add yet further to the pictorial vivacity of the landscape,—appear the three thatched roofs and a bit of the lower part of old “Palace cottage.” The rest of it is veiled artistically by the spring verdure. In the opposite direction, huge piles of foliage stretch across the glen to the top of the opposite rock, contrasted by occasional prominences of iron-stained grey marble, until the lofty glen-walls of limestone rock diverge towards Lewell. Here the outlines of their new spring drapery become gradually mingled with those of a beautiful expanse of granite hills, miniature-mountain scenery, and some of the greenest meads that ever refreshed a poets’ vision. Two or three elegant villas enliven the profusely wooded uplands; and beyond a solitary streak of brooklight, that glances from beneath one of the elms, you may just discover the arch of our “Chudleigh Bridge.” The Teign here is invisible.

During the last days of October the richly varied foliage renders the natural world at Beauty’s Point wondrously gorgeous,—imperially beautiful even in death, like the soul-set of a *mens divini*or.

At the end of one of the emerald slopes of Lewell, all that remains of its old manor-house appears. The other portion was pulled down by the late Lord Clifford, it is said, because the Princess of Wales, when riding along the neighbouring public road, had mistaken it for

his Lordship's residence.¹ At the bottom of this slope is a rivulet where, amidst an abundance of Marsh-wort, grows a great quantity of the poisonous "Hemlock Water Drop-wort" [*Ceanothe apiifolia*; a variety of *C. crocata*]. Here, and also opposite Lewell House, abounds, at the beginning of June, the Palmate Marsh-Orchis² (*O. latifolia*) and the Yellow Rattle (*Rinanthus Crista-Galli*); the rattle of whose seeds tells the Swedish peasant that hay-making time has come. To the left of Lewell House the public pathway in front of it bends round to an upland,

1 Lewell House formerly belonged to a family of the name of Eastchurch. One of them, James Eastchurch, married Shilston Clifford, aunt of the Lord Treasurer. On his monument in Chudleigh Church, and in old writings, the name of the "Barton" is written, Lawell. It is always pronounced, as Polwhele writes it, Lew-ell. *Hlawe* is an Anglo-Saxon word, signifying, a heap of earth; in the words of Jamieson,—a law, low, loo, or high ground, not suddenly rising up, as a hill, but by little and little. The name appears to have been given primarily to mounds of earth raised above the dead; where, on account of their sacredness, laws were enacted. After this mode of burial ceased, it was still applied to natural acclivities. In Scotland, Jamieson adds, a gently rising ground is "often called a law-hill." The name of *laugberg* that is, law-rock or law-hill, is given to hills in Iceland, on which judicial assemblies were formerly held.

Dr. Oliver (Cliffordiana. 18.) appears to think it probable that a *Fortalitium*, which Richard II permitted Bishop Brantyngham to build within the episcopal manor here (1380), was built on the Pixies' or "Chudleigh Rock."

2 Not the spotted palmate Orchis as stated at page 6; written in the winter, from memory, before the leaves and flowers appeared.

opposite the Winstowe Lodge of Ugbrook Park, and thence to a gate opposite a stile. On the upland, about the middle of May, grows the *Orchis Morio* (including a white and a flesh-coloured variety), and, in August, *Linum catharticum* and Milton's "euphrasy," *Euphrasia officinalis*. On the hillside, over the stile, in August, is the wild Endive or Chicory (*Cichorium Intybus*), *Verbena officinalis*, *Daucus Carota*, *Stachys Germanica*, and *Lithospermum officinale*. Just over the last stile, along this hill-path, near Gappah, grows the *Vinca minor*.

As we stand now on Beauty's Point we may observe a beaten path at our left hand, and another on our right. The first leads down the steep face of the limestone rock, (about 245 feet) to a pathway beside the cataract, and, just below the pathway, through a profusion of Lady Mercuries, to St. Agnes' Spring, or, as some have called it, St. Mary's well; a beautifully clear spring of water flowing out of the limestone rock into the torrent below, along a path studded with Golden Saxifrage. Here also grows the poisonous *Enanthe*. By the side of the glen path, towards Lewell, you will find, in June, the Woodruff (*Asperula odorata*) and what Lindley says "is believed to be the genuine Shamrock of the Irish" (*Oxalis acetosella*); a little sensitive plant with purple-veined, whitish flowers, and leaves composed of three leafy hearts united at their bases. By the side of the rock path from Beauty's Point is a flag-like plant, the *Iris foetidissima*, which abounds on the limestone formation at Chudleigh. The other path,

on our right, leads along the rocks to the quarry at "Sham-ler's Rock." †

Returning along the Riding Park, in the same direction as this quarry path, keeping near the trees on our left, we arrive opposite a beaten path, leading, through a part of Ugbrook Woods, to a hedge-gap stile, and thence, directly, to the path from Mount Pleasant stile to Poet's Wood. The *Orchis maculata* blooms on both sides of the wood-path, in June. When its elegant pale purple flower, spotted with red, appears, the "leafy green retreats" and rocky hollows of Poet's Wood begin to afford a luxurious shade during the summer noon. Here the poetling may perhaps win inspiration in the Poet's Chair, after the example of him, from whom the wood receives its name; and, in his own words, taste of that electric emotion—

"That gushes with deep feeling
Of glory and delight;
And ever beckons onward,
As a distant beacon light.
That whispers, thou shalt conquer
In life's broad battle field,
And in the deadly combat
To thee shall fortune yield."

On entering the wood we shall find on our left, a portion of the limestone rock projecting somewhat in the form of an arm chair.

† At the foot of the Pixies' Rock I found several plants of the *Orchis pyramidalis* growing, this 14th of June, whilst this sheet was printing.

In this natural seat, a boy-poet, not now residing in the neighbourhood, (the son of a barrister and county-court judge), used to sit; and the above lines are from a poem, some part of which was ex-cogitated on the spot where we now stand. The chair you may see is moss-lined; the seat, as it ought, partakes of the imaginary. Above it, on the chair-back, are the ivy ("Hederae præmia," &c.) The common Maiden-hair fern (*Asplenium Trichomanes*), and a bit of Heart's-tongue (*Scelopendrium vulgare*). Further on, on the right, as we descend the steep rocky path, is another angular kind of seat, the only occupant of which is the South British *Rubia peregrina*.

Judging by the specific name of this plant, this may have been formerly a seat of Philosophy.

Down the first path on our left, at the foot of a tree, we shall find the *Lathræa Squamaria*, which was discovered in Devonshire in 1831, (in Ugbrook Woods, by Miss Louisa Clifford †). On the right of the same path, in June, grows the Twayblade (*Listera ovata*). *Sanicula Europæa*, *Habenaria bifolia*, and the "poisonous" Mercury, then also abound here. Now, the *Anemone nemorosa* brightens all the romantic spots in Poet's wood. At the foot of the declivity we turn to the right and pass through the pathway-gate into a lane. At the right extremity of this lane is a gate on our left, opening into a cart-lane, that leads to Mazall Rock.

On approaching this rock we may perceive a low

† Thomas Yarde, Esq., Culver House, Chudleigh.

~~Maze-bush~~ on its lower acclivity. This is an interesting memorial of a poor demented old man, who used to dig up the white violet roots, and amuse himself by making a rude garden at this place. His name was Hall; consequently, the rock was named after him, by the people and children of his own class, "Maze Hall's Rock." † The top of this rock is a habitat of the *Melittis Melissophyllum*; which is easily recognised, in June, by its twin gaping white flowers, with red spots on their lower lips. This plant has a disagreeable smell when growing, but a fragrant one in an herbarium. Just above the lilac-bush grow the *Clematis vitalba*, *Linaria vulgaris*, *Tamus communis*, *Lithospermum officinale*, and *Sherardia arvensis*.

Mazall Rock is a portion of the carboniferous limestone of Chudleigh, which, Dr. Croker informs me, "occupies a very equivocal position, whether taken as a continuation of the bands of limestone from Plymouth, Buckfastleigh, Ashburton, to Bickington (after traversing the sands and clays of Bovey Heathfield,)—or whether it be a continuation of the limestone of Torquay, St. Mary Church, Bishopsteignton, Ideford, Waddon Barton, to Whiteway.

The former is the *grauwacke*, the latter is the red sandstone formation; for, at Waddon Barton, these limestones are clearly associated with grey and red shales; a continuation of which is cut through on the first ascent of

† Mr. Wootton, the occupier of the land here, says that, he died on his passage to Ireland

Haldon Hills, (towards Exeter) above Kerswell. In this formation there are generally found, sandstones, shales, and conglomerates, containing the remains of calamites and other plants, with much carbonaceous matter.

LETTER VII.

Ugbrook and its Cliffords—Haldon House and the Palk family—Culver House and the family of Yarde—Orizaville—connection of the Pomneys with the court of Charles II, and of George II and III—unrecorded Naval gallantry.

My dear Marr,

On the eve of a departure for London, I must write you a brief concluding missive. Other causes compel from me this unwonted brevity. I did intend to publish, in conjunction with the foregoing letters, two long ones respecting Ugbrook, Haldon, and several very interesting picture-spots. But I perceive, that, owing to the influx of much unexpected local matter (relating to Chudleigh), I am already close to the limits originally prescribed. I shall not therefore, spoil so exciting a narrative as that of the facts of the Courtenay and Clifford history (the former and present Lords of Ugbrook manor), by attempting its abridgement now. Of the foreign branch of the house of Courtenay, I am in possession of historic details of extraordinary interest, chiefly collected from old

foreign sources. It is my intention to publish them in a subsequent series of letters, along with an account of the plants whose uses I have not yet given, and some descriptions of the botany, geology, and scenery of other interesting, undescribed places in this part of Devon. The chief of these is Dunsford, and its ancient house of Fulford. Amongst my communications, I find one of great, but most melancholy interest, written by the father of the late Earl of Leicester, ¹ respecting an event in which a connection of the house of Fulford had a fearful and nearly tragical participation.

The Park of Ugbrook has been so often the subject of eulogy, that it is scarcely necessary to re-describe it. Polwhele writes of it, as, "one of the most enobling spots in Devon;" and to this, I may justly add,—and not only of Devon, but, of England. The principal view from Ugbrook hills is that from the broad, green, commanding esplanade, just on the right above "Mount Pleasant Gate." This is one of our most extensive prospects, and is rich in many varieties of exquisite upland-scenery.

Ugbrook was originally attached to the Precentorship of Exeter Cathedral, and was the residence of the Precentor, until 1550. At this period the Bishopric was stripped of the manor of Chudleigh, and then, Dr. Oliver thinks, ² Ugbrook was alienated from the Precentorship, and became the property of Sir Peter Courtenay, second son of Sir William Courtenay, of Powderham; "probably

¹ Discovered among the papers of a relative.

² Cliffordiana.

its first lay possessor.”¹ In the chancel of Chudleigh church, there is a handsome monument erected, according to a Greek inscription, by “Thomas Clifford,” to the memory of Sir Pierce Courtenay, and of Dame Elizabeth his wife. On an altar-stone he is said to have died in 1552. He left a daughter² and co-heir, Anne, who married Anthony Clifford, of Borscombe, in Wilts, fourth in descent from Sir Lewis Clifford K.G. This distinguished companion of John of Gaunt descended from Walter de Clifford, of Hereford, (second Baron, according to Banks, first, according to Oliver), great-grandson of Richard, Duke of Normandy. John, seventh Lord Clifford K. G. was slain at Meux.³ His son Thomas, eighth Baron, was killed at St. Alban’s. In revenge of his death, his son John, the next Baron, is said to have killed the young son of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, during a battle, fought by the Duke at Wakefield Green, against a force quadruple his own; contrary to the advice of his kinsman⁴ and late “Captain-general” (when “Regent in Normandy,”) Sir David Halle of

1 Cliffordiana 19. According to this, the account of Sir W. Pole, p. 260, must be, in some respects, erroneous.

2 Arthur Clifford. Coll. Cliffordiana 76. Oliver, Cliff. 14. Polwhele quotes Sir W. Pole, as stating that, she was the daughter and co-heir of Sir Peter’s eldest son Edward.

3 He married a daughter of Hotspur (Henry Lord Percy) and of the Lady Elizabeth Mortimer, great granddaughter of Edward III.

4 By the marriage of his father, Sir Phillip Halle, with Constance Grey de Ruthyn, granddaughter of John Holland, Duke of Exeter, and of Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of John of Ghent. (Harleian mss. 1160. ib., Holland, 1393-94. ib., 1396.176).

Kynersly, Shropshire.¹ The "Black Clifford," as he was called, was killed not long after; either before or during the battle of Towton.² His great grandfather was brother to Sir Lewis Clifford K. G., from whom the Barons of Chudleigh descend; therefore, they are not descendants of him whom Leland calls, "the Butcher." "The Lord Treasurer" Clifford, first Baron of Chudleigh, was son of Hugh Clifford (by Mary, daughter of Sir George Chudleigh), whose father, Thomas Clifford D. D., was the third son of Anthony Clifford and Elizabeth Courtenay.³ The first Baron was the patron of Dryden; who "completed his translation of Virgil's Pastorals at Ugbrook, and a spot is shown in the Park, which is dignified by the name of *Dryden's Seat*."⁴

The principal mansions on the north of the town are, Haldon House, the seat of Sir Laurence Vaughan Palk, Baronet, and Whiteway, that of Montague Parker Esq., formerly M. P. for the county. Respecting these families I can state but little now. Sir L. V. Palk's father married first, Mary, daughter of John, third Earl of Darnley, secondly, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Wilmot, fourth Viscount and first Earl of Lisburn. Sir Robert Palk, the first Baronet, married a daughter of the house of Vansittart.

Whiteway was built by Lord Boringdon, who exchanged it for some lands belonging to his younger brother, Montague Parker Esq. the grandfather of its present propri-

1 Grafton's Chronicle 1569. p. 649.

2 Grafton and Banks differ; as we may see hereafter.

3 Oliver Cliff. 20.

4 Coll. Clifford.

eter. † Since that time, if I mistake not, considerable alterations and additions have been made at Whiteway House. In its drawing-room and library, the geology of this district has been illustrated at a very great expense, by means of some very rich jasper tables—cut from a block of several tons, found at Trusham—and by other tables containing beautiful specimens of the Chudleigh marbles.

On the right of Culver Street, towards Exeter, is Culver House; now being enlarged to receive its owner, Thomas Yarde Esq., a descendant of the ancient family of Yarde, recorded by Prince in his "Worthies of Devon." The first lane on the same side, from Chudleigh, leads to Kater-brook bridge. Just over the bridge, on the right, across the brook, is a meadow-gate leading to a habitat of the *Narcissus biflorus*, *Veronica serpyllifolia*, and the double *Cardamine pratensis*. Opposite, on the other side of the way, is a stile leading to some cornfields, wherein grow in May, the Corn-Crowfoot (*Ranunculus arvensis*, see p. 46) *Lepidium campestre*, and *Scandix pecten*. This lane leads to some romantic rocks at Waddon and Poorcombe.

Waddon hamlet was the birth-place of the celebrated Major Rennell. He and the first Baron of Chudleigh appear to have been the only persons born in Chudleigh, who have passed the infinite that separates the obscure from the distinguished; or, who have won the earthly immortalities of fame. Opposite the mile-stone in the Exeter road, to which Culver Street leads, is a modern

† Polwhele, the only authority now at hand.

house¹ with two pointed gables in front, like a London suburban villa. This until lately, was occupied by its late owner, Commander John Powney K. H. N. N.; a gentleman of rare nobleness of spirit, and of knightly courtesy. I was arrested once, whilst walking down the road, by the peculiar energy of a somewhat brusque but, obviously, officer-like speaker, which reminded me so strongly of the bold but polished vivacity of an old and very gallant naval friend, that I was induced to write, and mention the great similarity. I was rewarded by a prompt reply, claiming Captain Powney as an old friend, warmly and brightly remembered. When generous emotion has been chilled to death by meaner spirits, there will remain some at least, like the great Pellew, who will keep it warm enough by an officer's fireside.

The Powneys, says a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*,² are an ancient Berkshire family, who appear to have been favourites of kings and princes. One of them was Colonel of a regiment in the time of Charles II, and was killed by one of his own officers, Captain Flower, at the White Hart, Windsor, in mistake for a Captain Potta. Captain Flower had just joined the regiment, and killed his colonel, probably during some drunken brawl, at an entertainment given by Colonel Powney to all his officers.

1. Orizaville (now Cakfields). The house being named after *Orizapa*, on account, if I remember rightly, of a service of plate having been presented to Captain Powney by some Mexicans who resided in sight of the mountain.

2 68. Vol. 1009—

(1. 1798).

The latter, however, was so great a favourite with the King, that no influence could save the life of the homicide. The grandson of the Colonel, Penyston Powney Esq., represented Berkshire in many parliaments. Unfortunately for his family he was especially regarded by Frederick, Prince of Wales, for whose accommodation whilst residing at Cliefden House (near Maidenhead), he enlarged his manorial residence (St. Ives, Berks), and who reciprocated his neighbour's kindness by becoming his debtor to a considerable amount. To make amends for this loss, George III distinguished Penyston's son, Portlock Penyston, by giving him the rangiership of Windsor Park (a poor compensation for the loss of the property); and, it is said, as another mark of his esteem, even canvassed some of the tradesmen of Windsor in his favor; which, of course, contributed greatly to his election as member for the borough. Colonel Portlock Powney wore himself out in the service of his country, as a member of parliament, militia officer, and magistrate. † He died in 1794, and left two sons; Colonel Powney, of Petersham, Surrey—a very excellent man, and gallant artillery officer, who has served as Brigadier General in India—and the Commander, who received the Knighthood of the Royal Guelphic order, from his late Majesty William IV, as a mark of his esteem for the services of an officer who had served as such, under his own eye on board the royal yacht; and who, but for a solitary act of disrespect towards a Roman catholic ceremony at Malta ("a boyish freak" heavily visited),

† Ibid.

would have risen to much higher naval distinction. Richard Powney D. C. L., Fellow of All Souls, the author of English and Latin poems, and the editor of Clarendon's state letters and diary (2 Vol. 4to. 1763), was the brother of Penyston Powney M. P. for Berks. The daughter of the latter (aunt to the Commander) married the celebrated Dr. Blomberg, Canon of St. Pauls, and Clerk of the Closet to George IV. †

Yours very faithfully,

HUGHES FRASER HALLE.

† The particulars of a part of the naval career of Captain Powney's distinguished friend, alluded to on page 154, (Captain Thomas Gill M. N.) are of so interesting a character, that, as they form a portion of unpublished naval history, I need not apologise for inserting them in this concluding note.

In March, 1803, information reached the officer in command of the H. M. *Raccoon* (Austin Bissel), that the Governor of Truxilla, on the Spanish main, had detained a British merchant ship, the *Milford*, which had put into that port in distress. Mr. Gill, the mate, was then despatched in a merchant ship to ascertain the cause of her detention. He found that the Spaniards had taken possession of the vessel, removed her crew into a man of war brig, and confined the master to his cabin. He went therefore, with an interpreter, on board the Spanish brig, and, having explained his instructions and authority, strongly remonstrated with its Captain, against his act of violence and breach of treaty then existing between the two nations, and required him, under pain of being visited by the King of Great Britain's High

displeasure,—to liberate the crew of the Milford immediately, and free her commander from arrest. This the Spanish officer reluctantly promised to do; but told Mr. Gill that he could not be allowed to depart with the vessel, until the Governor had received some instructions from the supreme government at Guatemala. The young officer had no force with which to resist a fourteen-gun brig well manned. He was therefore obliged not only to submit, but to receive an officer and forty men on board his merchant-vessel. The crew of the latter were not allowed to have any communication with the shore; so that they were now prisoners for twenty days. Mr. Gill appeared satisfied, submissive and polite. He succeeded in winning their confidence, and not being so sharply looked after, took measures for dispatching secretly a boat to Belize, Honduras, where the Racoon then lay. Volunteers were soon ready and all the other essentials for the voyage. One cloudy night their young chief invited the Spanish officer to dine with him. After dinner they sang, performed duets together on the guitar and flute, danced upon the deck, and the grog was well pushed about among the Spaniards looking on. All this time a boat was being provisioned from a timber-port under the counter. The Spanish quarter-master of the watch, once went aft, looked over the taffrail, and finding the boat close under the stern, but happily seeing and suspecting nothing (the signal, a whistle, having been given in time) he gave her more tow-rope, veered her astern, and again joined the fun. The boat's crew soon completed their task, cut off the tow-rope, dropped astern, and, in the darkness, were speedily out of sight. They were not missed until the relief of the watch at four A.M. This feat was accomplished under the eyes of three soldiers, sentinels, a quarter-master, and fourteen seamen of the watch. On the relief missing the boat, there was a considerable consternation and commotion. Mr. Gill's crew were turned out of bed and mustered, and eight of them with the ship's chief mate were undiscoverable. To lead them astray, he suggested that they

might have taken themselves ashore, and have got into some of the creeks to find soft bread and vegetables, of which they had been so long deprived. The whole shore was soon in an uproar; and canoes were flying in every direction but the right. It was not until eleven A. M., that a fine war canoe dashed away at the rate of eleven knots an hour for the seas. But it was too late. The boat got fresh land breezes, and the Racoon soon came on the scene. Before her arrival, the Spaniards attempted to seize the officer who had outwitted them, and send him prisoner ashore. This, however, he had prepared for, by barricading himself, ship's officers, and seven of the crew in the after cabin; where, having collected their arms, they presented so bold a front, that no attack was made upon them before Captain Bissel's arrival.

On the fourteenth of July following, an action ensued between the Racoon eighteen guns, and a French brig *La Lodi*, also of eighteen guns. During the fight, after being thrice wounded, and refusing to go below, Mr. Gill fought with great gallantry, until he lost his left arm by a cannister shot. The particulars of this, and several other very gallant affairs, I must reserve, until some bright leisure moments of the hopeful future, shall enable me to do more justice to them, than I could anticipate now.

Mr. Gill became Lieutenant in 1803, Commander in 1814, and Captain in 1837.

FINIS.

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